



No. 71

APRIL...TEN CENTS



ACTION COMICS

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.



FEATURING
SUPERMAN

IN A
DIFFERENT
KIND OF ST.
VALENTINE STORY-

"Valentine Villainy!"

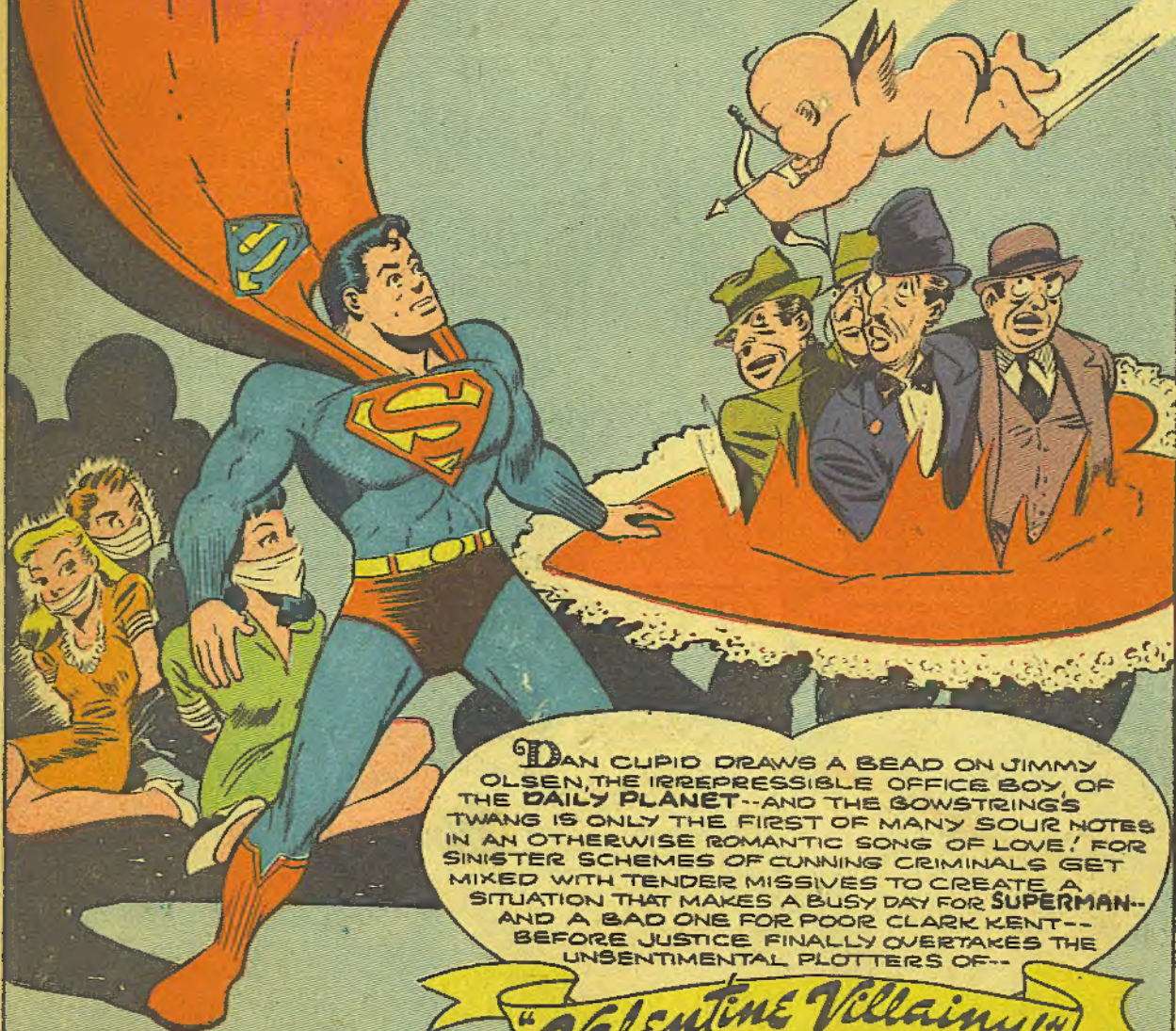
CLARK LOVE2
LO12 LOVE2
SUPERMAN



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SUPERMAN

by JERRY SIEGEL
and
JOE SHUSTER



DAN CUPID DRAWS A BEAD ON JIMMY OLSEN, THE IRREPRESSIBLE OFFICE BOY, OF THE DAILY PLANET--AND THE GOWSTRINGS TWANG IS ONLY THE FIRST OF MANY SOUR NOTES IN AN OTHERWISE ROMANTIC SONG OF LOVE! FOR SINISTER SCHEMES OF CUNNING CRIMINALS GET MIXED WITH TENDER MISSIVES TO CREATE A SITUATION THAT MAKES A BUSY DAY FOR SUPERMAN--AND A BAD ONE FOR POOR CLARK KENT--BEFORE JUSTICE FINALLY OVERTAKES THE UNSENTIMENTAL PLOTTERS OF--

"Valentine Villainy!"

THIS IS THE DAY WHEN HEARTS ARE TRUMPS...

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY AGAIN, LOIS! DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL ROMANTIC?

IT CERTAINLY DOES! I WONDER WHAT SORT OF VALENTINE I'LL GET FROM SUPERMAN?

ALWAYS SUPERMAN! HAVEN'T YOU THE FAINTEST CURIOSITY ABOUT WHETHER I'LL GIVE YOU A VALENTINE?

YES, OF COURSE... BUT YOU KNOW HOW IT IS, CLARK WHEN WE SEE EACH OTHER EVERY DAY...



("--THE TROUBLE IS, LOIS TAKES ME FOR GRANTED! I'LL NEVER HAVE A CHANCE AS LONG AS SHE HAS SUPERMAN ON THE BRAIN! BUT MAYBE I CAN CHANGE THAT!--")

NOR IS CLARK KENT THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS FOUND DAN, CUPID'S ARROWS VENOM-TIPPED AT TIMES...

GEE, CLARK-- I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER UNDERSTAND WOMEN!

WHY, JIMMY OLSEN-- YOU, TOO?

I'M CRAZY ABOUT BETTY ROXMORE-- BUT HER DAD IS RICH AND SHE'S STRICTLY HIGH SOCIETY! AND I'M AFRAID SHE LIKES A KID NAMED HUGO BAYLISS BETTER BECAUSE HE KNOWS A CELEBRITY!

CELEBRITIES MAKE IT TOUGH FOR FELLOWS LIKE US! RIGHT NOW I'M HAVING SUPERMAN TROUBLE!

AT LEAST SUPERMAN IS SOMEBODY! BUT THE ONLY CELEBRITY HUGO KNOWS IS A LAH-DE-DA EUROPEAN NOBLEMAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF COUNT D'ORT.

NEVER HEARD OF HIM!

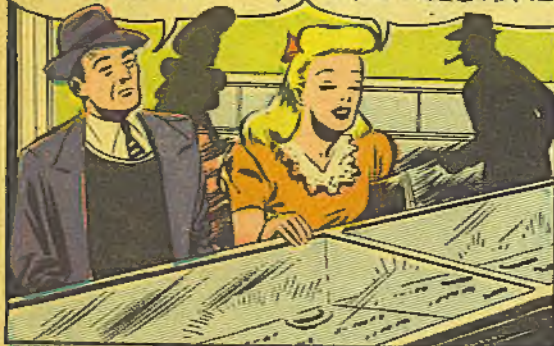
I'VE BEEN SAVING FOR A MONTH TO BUY BETTY THIS VALENTINE! I SURE HOPE IT IMPRESSES HER!

A VANITY CASE-- AND A BEAUTY! IF SHE DOESN'T APPRECIATE THAT, SHE ISN'T WORTH BOTHERING ABOUT!

AT THIS VERY MOMENT, BETTY ROXMORE AND JIMMY'S RIVAL ARE IN TUPPENNY'S FAMOUS JEWELRY STORE...

I THINK IT'S THE SENTIMENT, NOT THE VALUE OF THE GIFT, THAT COUNTS! ER-DO YOU LIKE CANDY, BETTY?

FOR A BOY WHO KNOWS REAL ARISTOCRATS LIKE COUNT D'ORT, YOU CERTAINLY HAVE PLEBIAN IDEAS!



...WHERE BETTY'S FATHER IS IN THE MARKET FOR A LITTLE THOUSAND-DOLLAR TRINKET!

DO YOU THINK MY WIFE WILL LIKE THIS DIAMOND NECKLACE, COUNT D'ORT?

A CHARMING LITTLE GIFT, MY DEAR ROXMORE! SHE SHOULD BE DELIGHTED!



BUT AS THE GROUP DEPARTS FROM THE STORE...

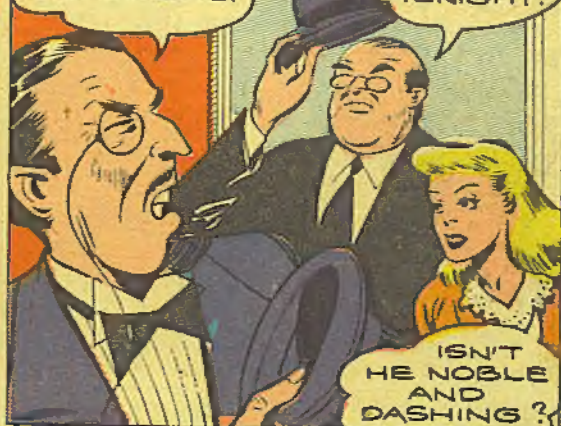
I'LL BET JIMMY OLSEN GIVES ME SOMETHING NICER THAN CANDY!



I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU SEE IN A COMMON OFFICE BOY TRYING TO BE A CUB REPORTER!

TOODLE-DOO! I'M HAVING TEA WITH LADY LISTOWELL!

SEE YOU AT BETTY'S VALENTINE PARTY TONIGHT!



ISN'T HE NOBLE AND DASHING?

WELL...ANYWAY, THE COUNT IS DASHING!

(I MUST DASH TO PAY MY HOTEL BILL WITH THE PROCEEDS FROM THIS! WHAT LUCK THAT I MET THAT YOUNG FOOL, HUGO, AND WAS INTRODUCED BY HIM TO THE ROXMORES!-)



NEARBY, CLARK IS SHOPPING ALSO--LESS EXPENSIVELY...

(--IF SUPERMAN WERE TO MAKE LOIS A PRESENT OF THIS BOOK--'HOW TO BE BRAINY THOUGH BEAUTIFUL'--SHE MIGHT FEEL DIFFERENTLY TOWARD CLARK KENT!-)



I'LL TAKE THIS, AND A COMIC VALENTINE CARD--NOT TOO INSULTING, BUT NOT SWEET, EITHER!

TRYING TO GET EVEN WITH SOME-BODY, HUH?



DON'T ASK US IF THIS IS OAN CUPID IN DISGUISE! ALL WE DO IS TELL THE STORY THE WAY IT HAPPENED --- AND WE'VE BEEN WONDERING OURSELVES!



UNHAPPILY, JIMMY CHOOSES THIS EXACT MOMENT TO SET OUT FOR THE HOME OF HIS BEST GIRL...

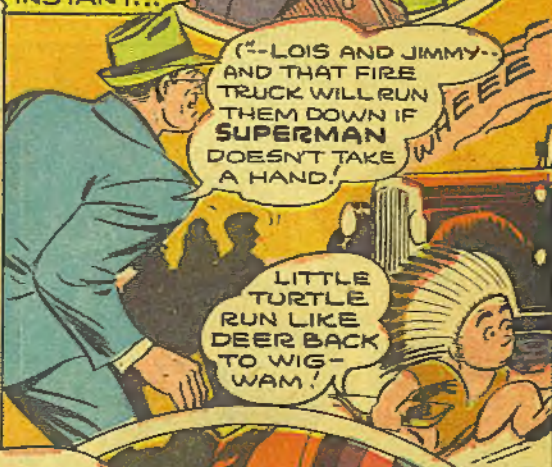
UGH! CHIEF CEDAR CHEST DODGE LITTLE TURTLE'S ARROW!

EVERY-THING'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT!

MY PLANET

AND DOUBLY UNHAPPILY, LOIS LANE AND THE COUNT D'ORT STRAY INTO THE PATH OF THE RESULTANT DEBACLE!

THE NEXT INSTANT...



MOVING WITH EYE-BAFFLING SPEED, CLARK RIDES HIMSELF OF HIS OUTER GARMENTS AND--

ALWAYS GLAD TO GIVE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT A LIFT!

I STARTED SOMETHING-- MIGHT AS WELL FINISH IT! WHERE'S THE FIRE?

FOURTH AND MAIN-- AND DON'T SPARE THE HORSES, SUPERMAN!

SUPERMAN!

MY WORD!

DARNED IF IT ISN'T!

RACING BACK FROM THE SCENE OF THE BLAZE, WHERE HE HAS DELIVERED THE FIRE TRUCK IN RECORD TIME, SUPERMAN SEIZES A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY...

("IF I HAND LOIS THIS VALENTINE NOW, SHE CAN'T VERY WELL ACCUSE CLARK KENT OF SENDING IT TO GET SUPERMAN IN TROUBLE.")

WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE

WHAT? FIRST YOU SAVE MY LIFE, THEN YOU GIVE ME A VALENTINE! I DON'T DESERVE ALL THIS!

THAT'S A MATTER OF OPINION, MISS LANE!

FOR TWO CENTS I'D HAVE YOU ARRESTED!

NO SALE!

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT IT IS!

ER-- SORRY I HAVE TO BE GOING!

SURPRISE!

A DIAMOND NECKLACE! I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT! IT PROVES THAT SUPERMAN CARES EVEN MORE FOR ME THAN I SUSPECTED--THE DEAR!

MINUTES LATER, JIMMY OVERTAKES BETTY NEAR HER HOME, AND --

GEE, BETTY, I WAS JUST ON MY WAY TO YOUR HOUSE WITH THIS VALENTINE! ... OOPS!

OH, JIMMY-- FOR ME?

OUCH!

MY CORN! IT'S KILLING ME!

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, SIR! YOU SEE, I WAS EXCITED, AND--

OH!

CLUMSY OAF!

OH!

WHY, YOU GNAT-BRAINED SOCIAL BUTTERFLY!

AND AGAIN--
SURPRISE!

WHY--
WHY--
I NEVER--

DON'T YOU
EVER DARE
SPEAK TO ME
AGAIN!

HUH?...
HEY!

EH? WHAT'S
THIS? HAS THE
YOUNG WHELP
INSULTED
YOU?

HOW TO BE
BRAINY
THOUGH
BEAUTIFUL

*You're constantly in trouble
And cause me many pains.
Why not forget your vanity,
And cultivate some brains?*

YOUNG
MAN,
I'LL TAN
YOUR
HIDE IF I
CATCH YOU
ANNOYING
MY
DAUGHTER
AGAIN!

I WAS
NEVER SO
MORTIFIED!

SHORTLY AFTERWARD...

THE DIAMOND
NECKLACE! IT'S
GONE! BUT I
REMEMBER PUTTING
IT IN MY POCKET!

I'LL BET
JIMMY
OLSEN
TOOK IT
WHEN HE
STEPPED
ON YOUR
FOOT,
MR.
ROXMORE!
THAT'S A
FAVORITE
TRICK OF
PICK-
POCKETS!

THERE
ARE TIMES
WHEN
LIFE
SEEMS
HARDLY
WORTH
LIVING--
AND THIS
IS ONE
OF THEM!

CLARK,
LOOK WHAT
SUPERMAN
GAVE ME!
ISN'T IT
LOVELY!

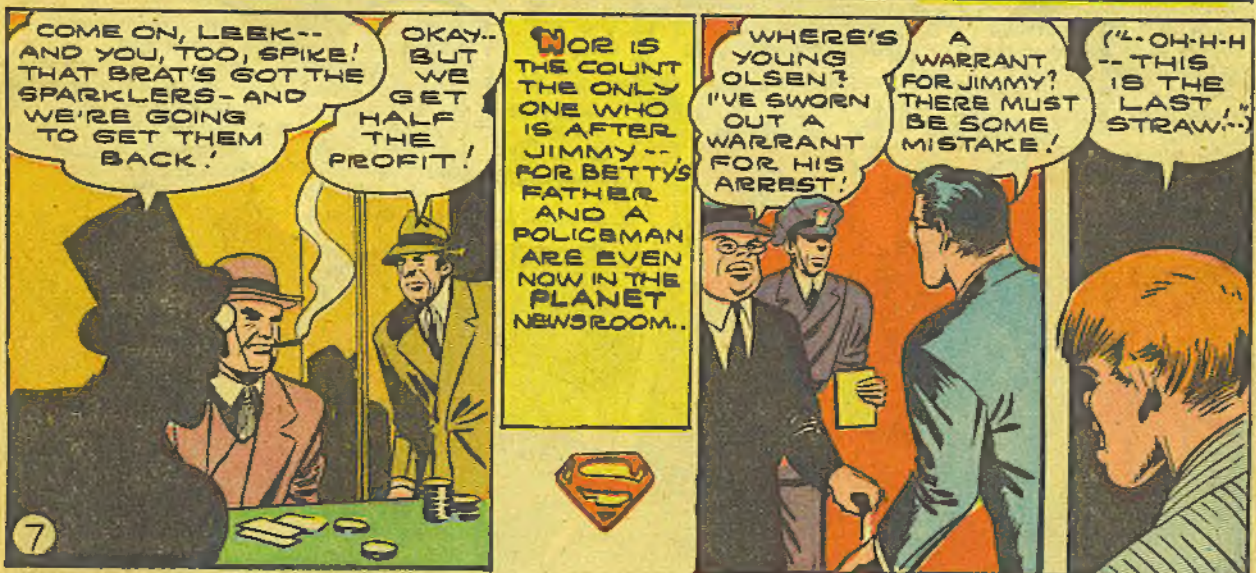
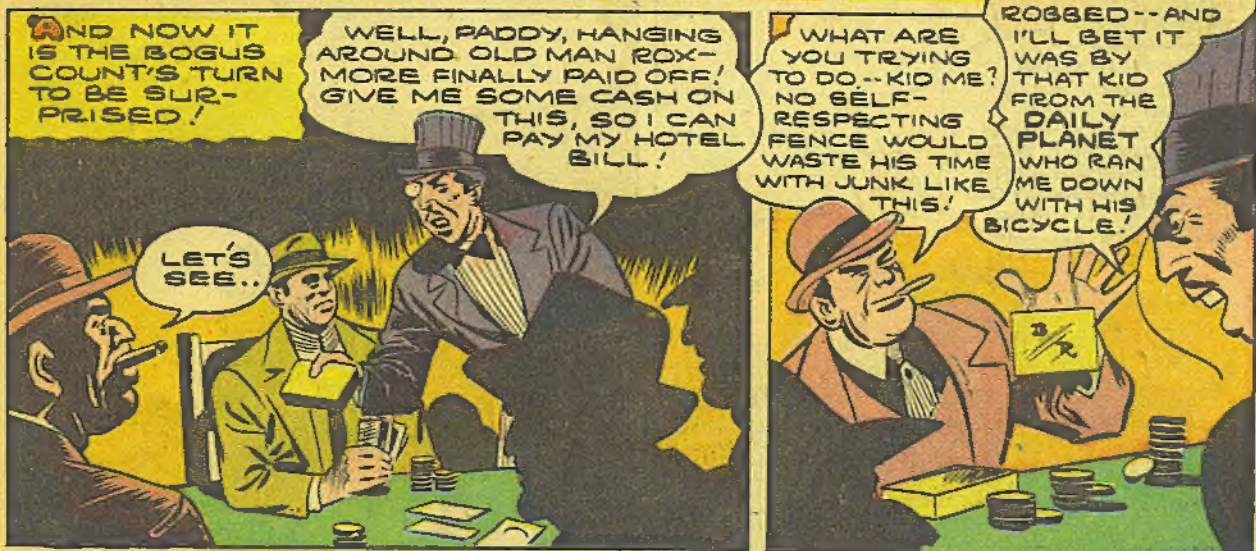
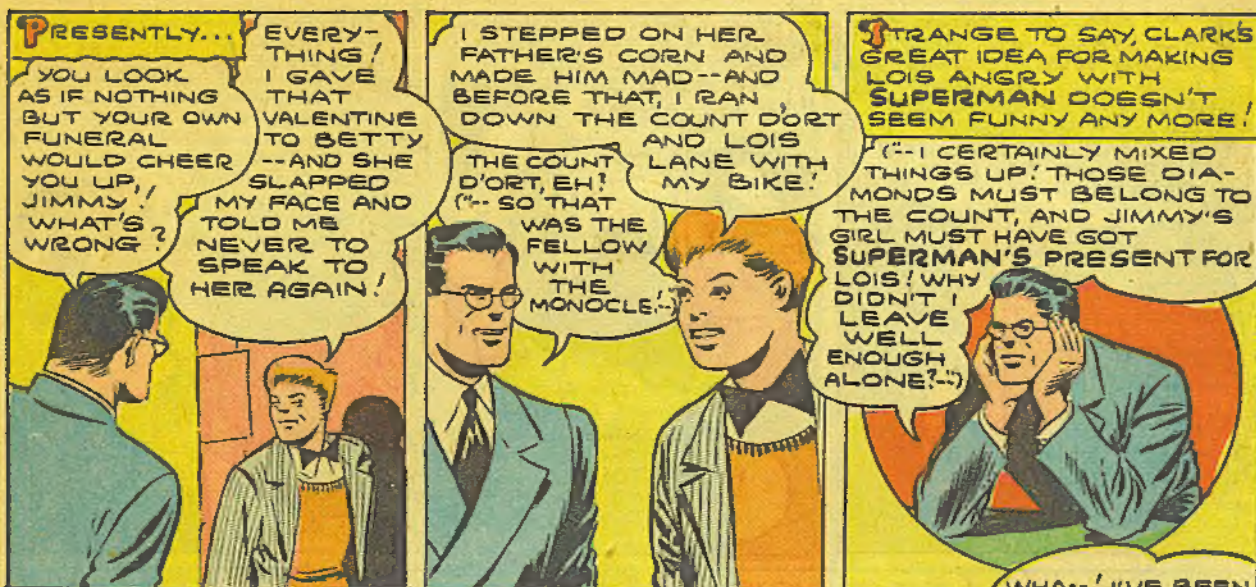
YOU'RE
JUST JEALOUS
TO FIND OUT
THAT HE
LIKES
ME SO
MUCH!

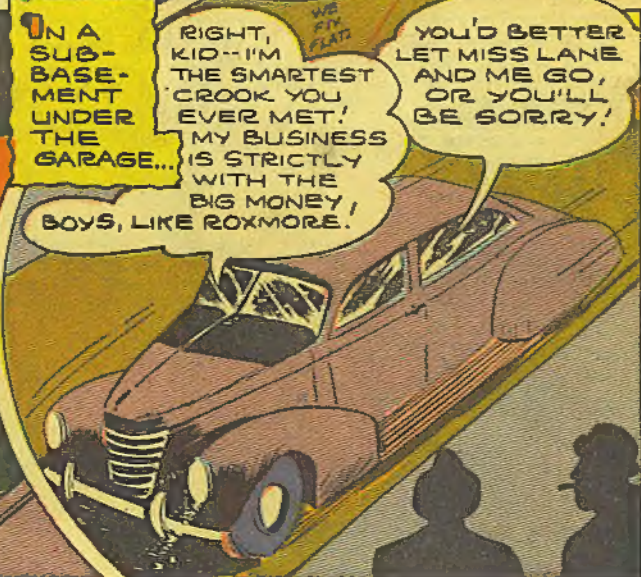
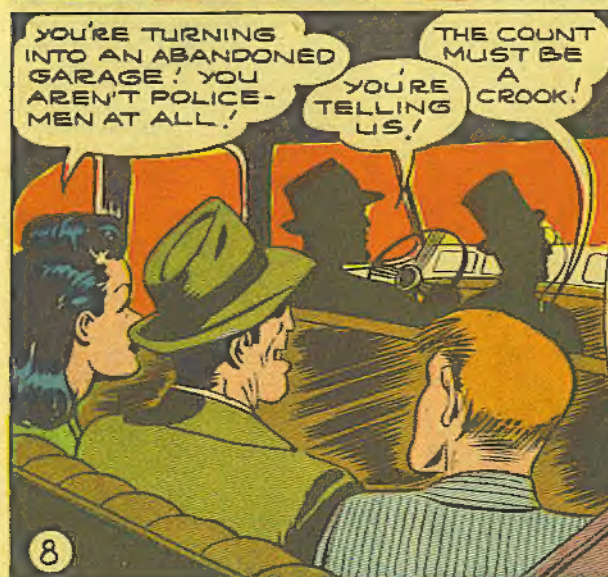
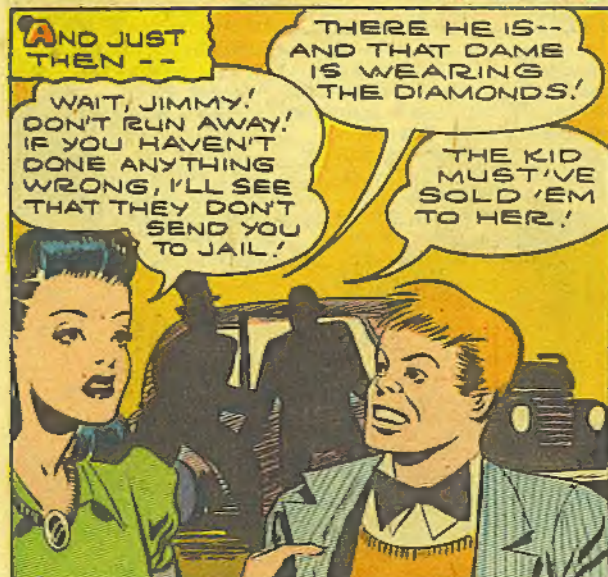
("--ONLY ONE
THING COULD
HAVE HAP-
PENED... I
MUST HAVE GOT
THAT PACKAGE
MIXED UP WITH
SOMEONE ELSE'S--
AND NOW THERE'LL
BE A LOT OF EM-
BARRASSING
EXPLANATIONS
TO MAKE!--")

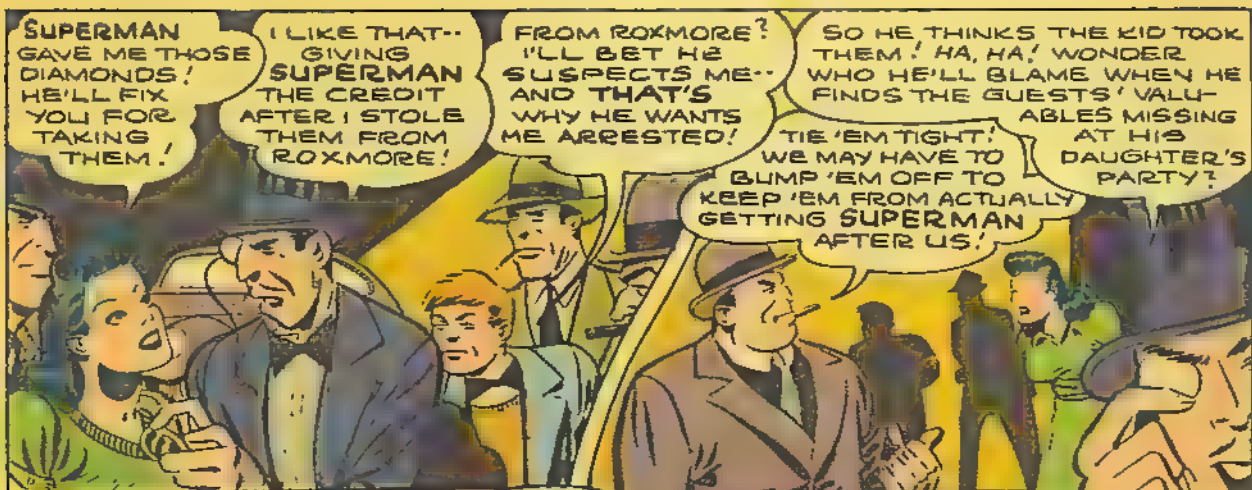
MEANWHILE, IN THE PLANET
OFFICE, CLARK RECEIVES HIS
FIRST HINT THAT ALL IS NOT
WELL...

BIRDS ARE
SINGING...
BELLS ARE
RINGING... TRA-
LA-LA...
("I CAN'T UNDERSTAND
IT! LOIS OUGHT TO BE
MAD AT SUPERMAN
BECAUSE OF THAT
COMIC VALENTINE
--BUT SHE'S
AS HAPPY AS
A LARK!--")

A
DIAMOND
NECKLACE!
BUT--BUT--
THERE MUST BE
SOME MISTAKE!







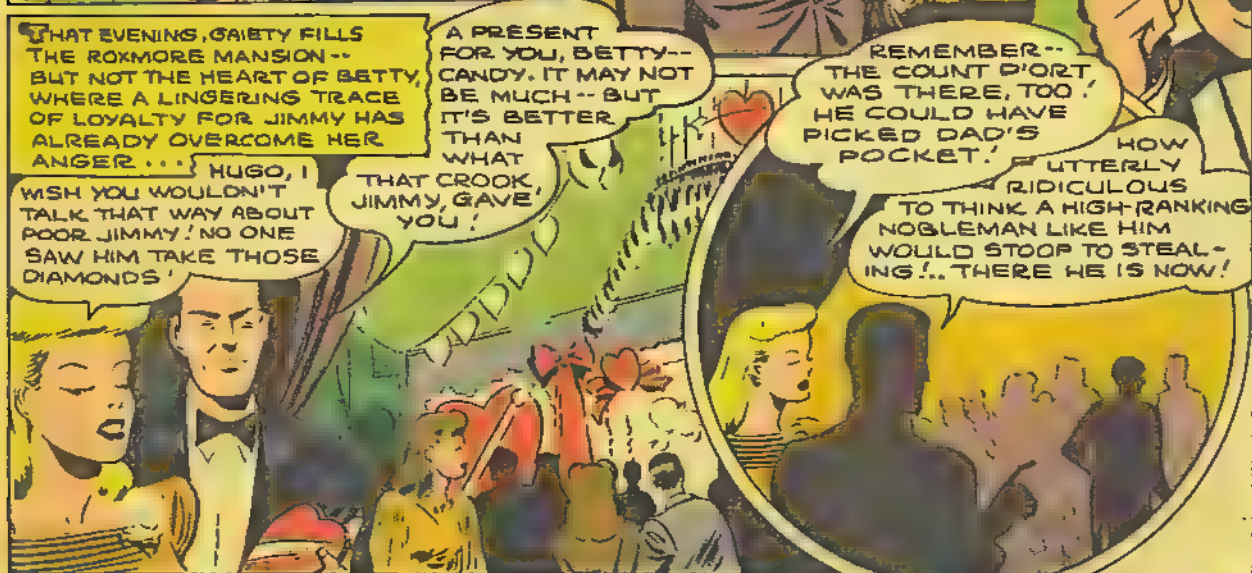
SUPERMAN
GAVE ME THOSE
DIAMONDS!
HE'LL FIX
YOU FOR
TAKING
THEM!

I LIKE THAT--
GIVING
SUPERMAN
THE CREDIT
AFTER I STOLE
THEM FROM
ROXMORE!

FROM ROXMORE?
I'LL BET HE
SUSPECTS ME--
AND THAT'S
WHY HE WANTS
ME ARRESTED!

SO HE THINKS THE KID TOOK
THEM! HA, HA! WONDER
WHO HE'LL BLAME WHEN HE
FINDS THE GUESTS' VALU-
ABLES MISSING
AT HIS
DAUGHTER'S
PARTY?

TIE 'EM TIGHT!
WE MAY HAVE TO
BUMP 'EM OFF TO
KEEP 'EM FROM ACTUALLY
GETTING SUPERMAN
AFTER US!



THAT EVENING, GAIETY FILLS
THE ROXMORE MANSION--
BUT NOT THE HEART OF BETTY,
WHERE A LINGERING TRACE
OF LOYALTY FOR JIMMY HAS
ALREADY OVERCOME HER
ANGER...

A PRESENT
FOR YOU, BETTY--
CANDY. IT MAY NOT
BE MUCH-- BUT
IT'S BETTER
THAN WHAT
THAT CROOK,
JIMMY, GAVE
YOU!

HUGO, I
WISH YOU WOULDN'T
TALK THAT WAY ABOUT
POOR JIMMY! NO ONE
SAW HIM TAKE THOSE
DIAMONDS!

REMEMBER--
THE COUNT D'ORT
WAS THERE, TOO!
HE COULD HAVE
PICKED DAD'S
POCKET!

HOW
UTTERLY
RIDICULOUS
TO THINK A HIGH-RANKING
NOBLEMAN LIKE HIM
WOULD STOOP TO STEAL-
ING!... THERE HE IS NOW!



RIDICULOUS,
IS IT? DO YOU
SEE WHAT I
SEE, HUGO?

HUH?...
THERE
MUST
BE
SOME
MISTAKE!

("--EASY
PICKINGS!--")

WE SAW YOU
STEAL THAT
MONEY, COUNT
D'ORT--AND I
THINK YOU
STOLE THOSE
DIAMONDS
FROM DAD,
TOO!

WHA--! WHY
YOU SNOOPY
BRATS--I'LL
MAKE SURE
YOU NEVER
TELL ANY-
ONE ELSE!

GET OUTSIDE,
BEFORE I SHOOT
YOU! THIS FIRE
WILL START A PANIC
TO COVER OUR
GETAWAY!

DON'T
THINK
YOU'RE GOING
TO GET AWAY
WITH IT, MR.
CROOK!

HUSH,
BETTY!
O-DON'T
M-MAKE
HIM
M-MAD!

MEAN-
WHILE,
WORRIED
BY
LOIS'
AND
JIMMY'S
PROLONGED
ABSENCE,
CLARK
INVESTIGATES...

SURE-- JIMMY CAME OUT
HOURS AGO! HE AND MISS
LANE WENT AWAY IN A
CAR WITH A MAN WHO
WORE A MONOCLE,
AND TWO
OTHER
MEN!

THANKS!
("SOUNDS
LIKE THE COUNT--
AND LOIS WAS
WEARING THOSE
DIAMONDS HE STOLE!
WONDER IF BETTY ROXMORE
KNOWS WHERE THE COUNT
HANGS OUT?--")

STREAKING INTO THE FLAME-FILLED BALL-
ROOM, THE MAN OF TOMORROW MAKES
SHORT WORK OF THE BURNING DECORATIONS...

("LUCKILY IT HASN'T HAD TIME TO
GET A GOOD START. I'LL PUT IT OUT IN
A HURRY, THEN GET ON THE
TRAIL OF THE KIDNAP
CAR!--")

ROXMORE'S DAUGHTER,
EH? SHE SHOULD BRING
A TIDY RANSOM! OF
COURSE-- SINCE KIDNAP-
ING IS A CAP-
ITAL OF-
FENSE--
WE'LL
HAVE TO
KILL
THEM
ALL...

YES,
HUGO--
WHY DON'T
YOU?

ON THE
THIEVES'
UNDER-
GROUND
RENDEZ-
VOUS...

MOVING SO SWIFTLY THAT THE
IMPACT OF HIS BODY PULVERIZES
CONCRETE TO FINE DUST, THE
MAN OF STEEL ENTERS THE
BASEMENT NOISELESSLY AND
UNSEEN...

("SO JIMMY
THINKS HE CAN
GET FREE AND
HANDLE THEM
ALL! MAYBE
HE'S RIGHT.--")

SECONDS LATER, SUPERMAN
ROCKETS TOWARD THE
ROXMORE MANSION!

("THE
COUNT IS
FORCING
THOSE
KIDS TO
GO WITH
HIM AT PISTOL-
POINT... AND
MEANWHILE
THE HOUSE IS
AFIRE!--")

HELP!

FIRE!

HAVING TRAILED THE CAR TO
THE HIDEOUT, SUPERMAN
SURVEYS THE SITUATION WITH
HIS X-RAY EYES...

OH, JIMMY-- I'M
SO SORRY I
ACTED THE
WAY I DID!

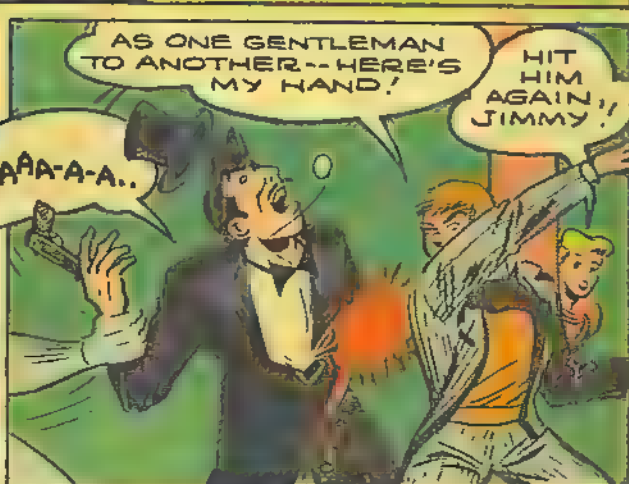
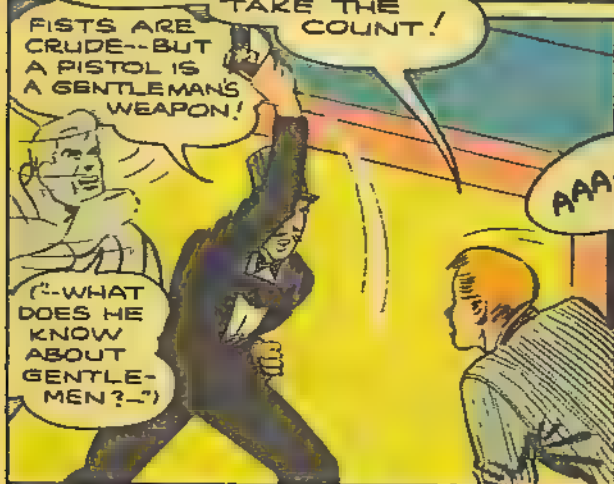
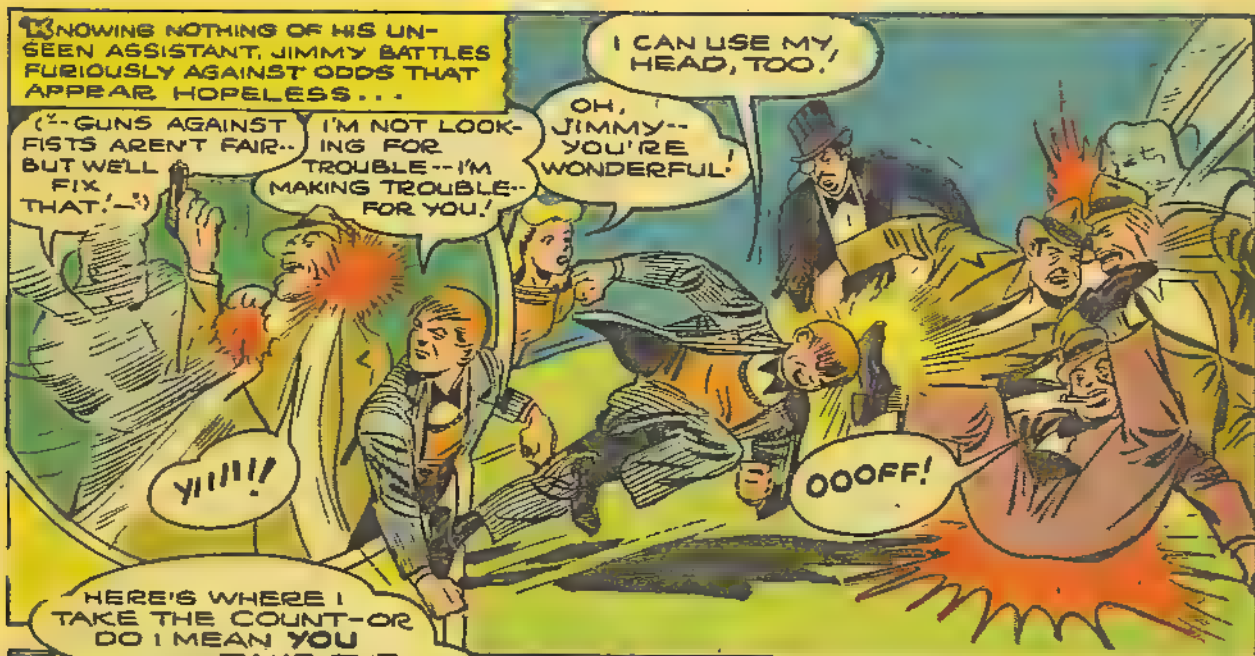
JUST
KNOWING
YOU'RE NOT MAD
ANY MORE MAKES
ME FEEL STRONG
ENOUGH TO BREAK
THESE ROPES AND
LICK THE WHOLE
GANG OF 'EM,
BETTY!

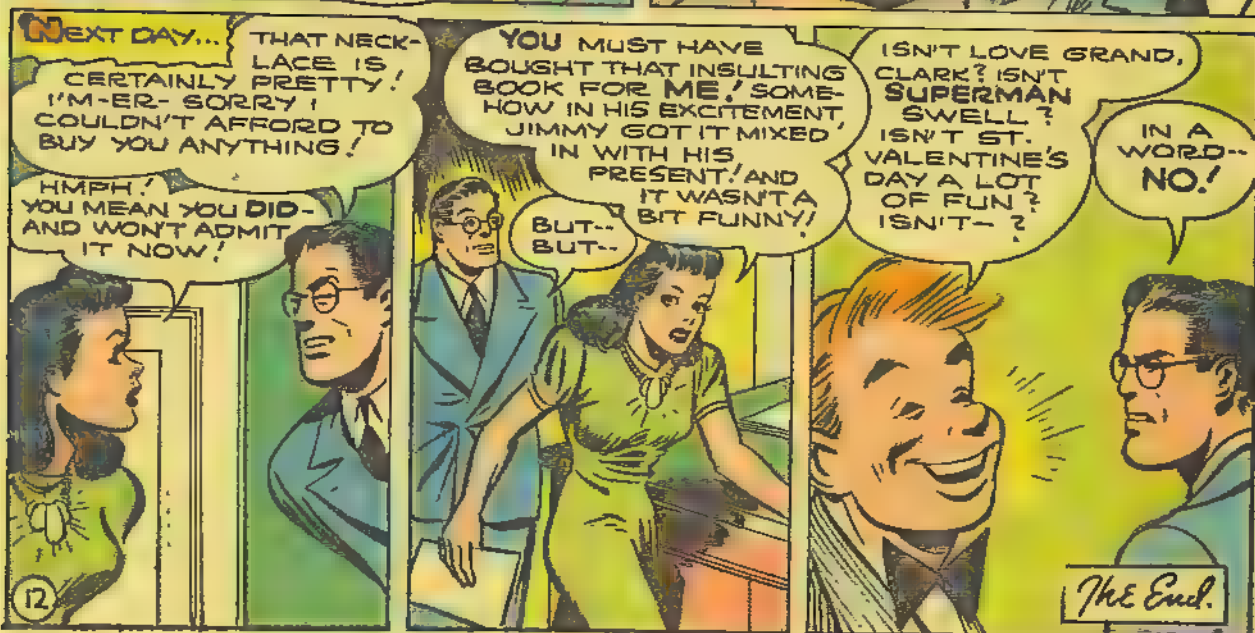
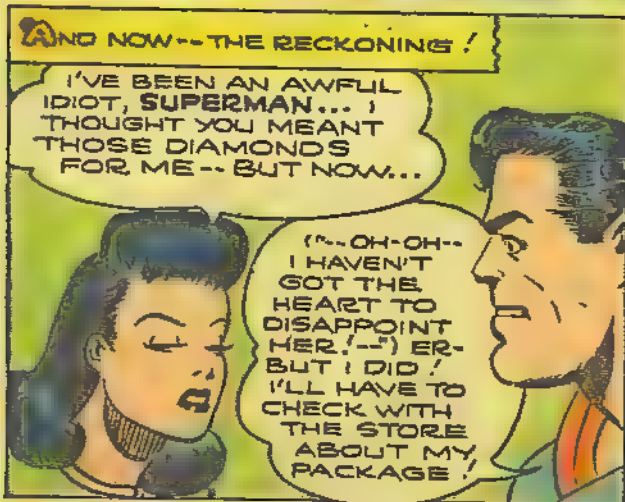
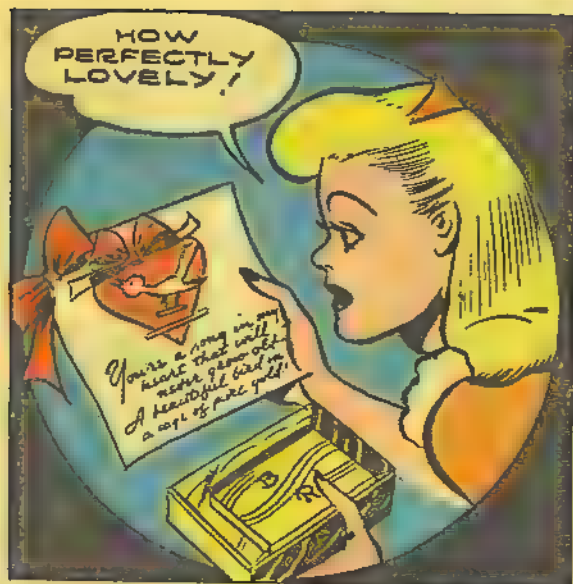
HUGO!
DO
SOME-
THING!

("OF COURSE, A
LITTLE HELP FROM
SUPERMAN WON'T HURT--
AS LONG AS I KEEP MOVING
SO FAST THAT I REMAIN
INVISIBLE!--")

HUH?...
LOOKIN' FOR
TROUBLE?

IF ONLY I
COULD! UGH!!
WHY--
I DID!





VIGILANTE

YOU NEVER KNEW THAT THE RAINBOW MAN HAD A HELPFUL STREAK AMONG ALL HIS MOTLEY HUES, DID YOU? WELL, NEITHER DID THE COLORFUL SCOUNDREL HIMSELF, NOR HIS WORTHY HENCHMEN...UNTIL THEY FOUND THAT HE WHO HELPS OTHERS CAN ALSO HELP HIMSELF! BUT THIS BEN-EVOLENT MOOD LASTS ONLY UNTIL THAT WALLOPING WADDY, THE VIGILANTE, PUTS A FEW TINTS OF HIS OWN INTO THE VARIED PICTURE AND UNMASKS THE MAN OF MANY SHADES...
"ALIAS MR. SUNSHINE!"



BOLD HEADLINES FLASH
THE NEWS OF A DARING
ESCAPE ...

DAILY FLASH
RAINBOW MAN
BREAKS JAIL!
RECAPTURE
BELIEVED IMMINENT!



AN ALERT POLICE FORCE SCOURS EV-
ERY NEST OF CRIME AND INIQUITY...

WE'RE LOOKIN' FOR
THE RAINBOW MAN--
GET INTO THE
LIGHT!

WHAT'S THE IDEA!
HE AIN'T HERE!



BUT THE POLICE ARE
LOOKING IN THE WRONG
PLACES!

AH, COUNT
FOGGE, IT'S SUCH A
PLEASURE TO MEET
YOU!

THE PLEASURE
IS MINE,
WÉMOISELLE!



YES, IT'S THE RAINBOW MAN HIMSELF, NEWLY SELF-EN-
NOBLED AND FLAUNTING H.S. APPEARANCE IN THE SWANKY
RAINBOW SALON ...

POE WAS RIGHT! THE BEST
WAY TO HIDE SOMETHING IS IN THE
OPEN! THE POLICE WOULD
NEVER THINK OF LOOKING
HERE!



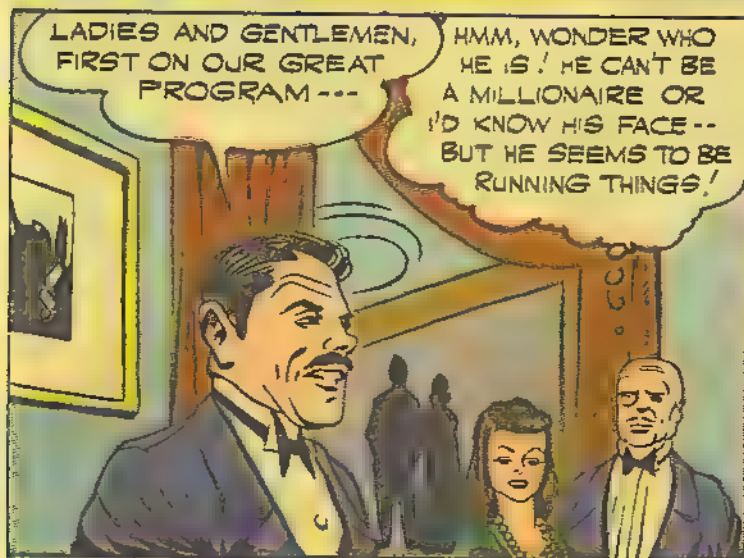
AND SO, WHILE SOCIETY GIVES
THIS RECEPTION, I CAN MINGLE
CALMLY WITH THE CROWD, AND
SELECT MY NEXT VICTIM! IF
THE POLICE ONLY
KNEW!

WE HAVE
ARRANGED QUITE AN
ENTERTAINMENT IN
YOUR HONOR, PRINCE!
YOU SHALL SEE!



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
FIRST ON OUR GREAT
PROGRAM ---

HMM, WONDER WHO
HE IS! HE CAN'T BE
A MILLIONAIRE OR
I'D KNOW HIS FACE--
BUT HE SEEMS TO BE
RUNNING THINGS!



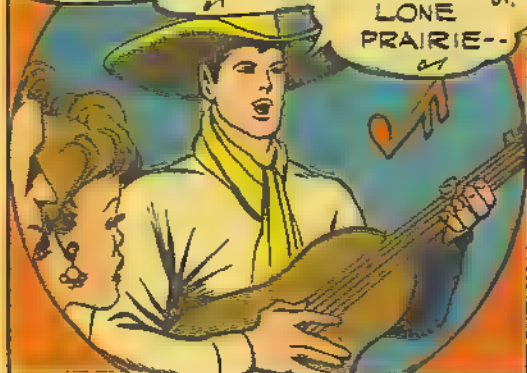
WHY, THAT'S MR. WILKINS, WHO
OPERATES THE WE-DO-IT-FOR-YOU
AGENCY! WALKS DOGS, ARRANGES
WEDDINGS,--DOES EVERYTHING!

VERY CONVENIENT!
(HMM, THERE ARE POSSIBILITIES
IN A BUSINESS LIKE THAT--
I'LL LOOK INTO IT!)



MEANWHILE, AS THE ENTERTAINMENT
PROCEEDS ---

OH, GIVE ME THE MOON
AND THE WIND, AND THE STARS, AND
A BRIGHT FIRE BLAZIN' ON THE
LONE PRAIRIE--



AND THE COYOTES
HOWLIN' AN' THE VARMINTS
PROWLIN'--

TALK ABOUT
VARMINTS, THERE'S
THE RAINBOW
MAN!



MOMENTS LATER, EMERGING
FROM A DESERTED DRESS-
ING ROOM ---

HAVE TO BE CAREFUL NOT
TO CREATE A RUMPUS IN
THIS CROWD! THERE MIGHT
BE A PANIC IF THEY KNEW
THERE WAS DANGER!



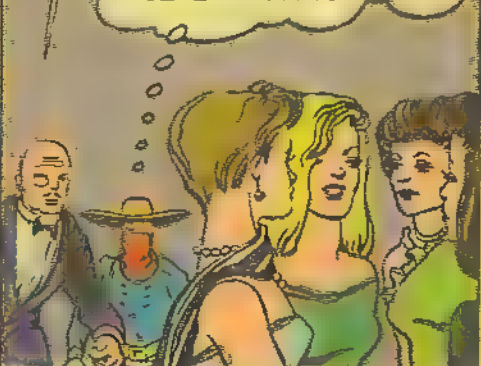
UNFORTUNATELY, THE SHREWD EYES OF THE RAIN-
BOW MAN SWIFTLY DETECT DANGER ---

THE VIGILANTE! HE WOULD SHOW UP
TO SPOIL THINGS! TIME FOR ME
TO GET GOING!



THESE GIRLS WILL DO ME A GOOD
TURN WITHOUT KNOWING IT!
THEY'LL STOP HIM!

THE MINUTE HE MAKES
A DASH FOR THE DOOR--
I'LL GET HIM!

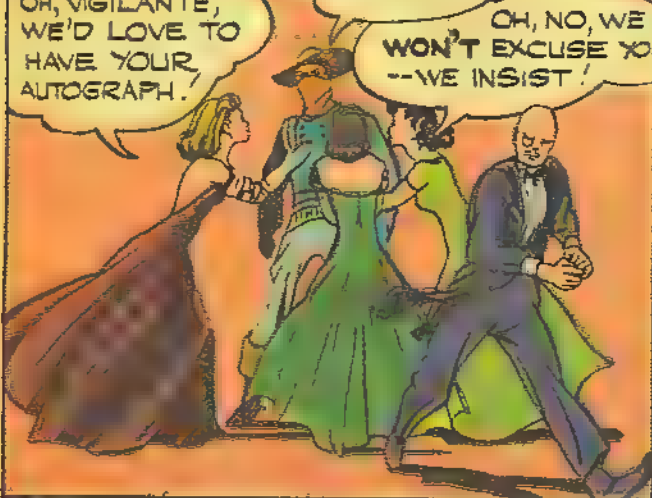


BUT UNEXPECTEDLY..

OH, VIGILANTE,
WE'D LOVE TO
HAVE YOUR
AUTOGRAPH.

HUH--? EXCUSE ME,
MA'AM--

OH, NO, WE
WON'T EXCUSE YOU
--WE INSIST!



AND SO--

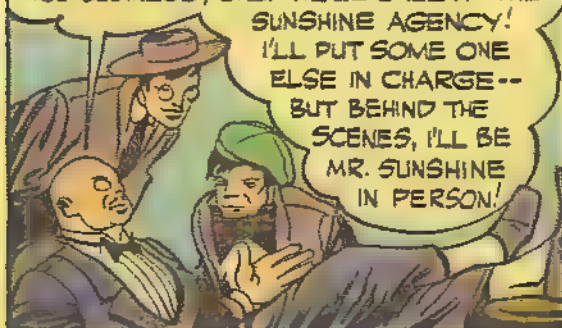
THERE YOU ARE,
MA'AM!

BY THIS TIME THE
RAINBOW MAN'S
GOT AWAY---



A FURTIVE MEETING WITH HIS PALS, DICTIONARY AND SHAKES-- AND THE RAINBOW MAN BROACHES HIS NEW PLANS --

WE'RE GOING INTO THE "WE-CAN-DO-IT-FOR-YOU BUSINESS, ONLY WE'LL CALL IT THE SUNSHINE AGENCY! I'LL PUT SOME ONE ELSE IN CHARGE-- BUT BEHIND THE SCENES, I'LL BE MR. SUNSHINE IN PERSON!



SPREADING GOOD CHEER--AND REMOVING A BIT OF FILTHY LUCRE IN A MOST SUNNY MANNER!

WE DO EVERY-THING NEARLY, TO GET US JUST DIAL, THOUGH IT'S TRUE YOU PAY DEARLY, JUST GIVE US A TRIAL!

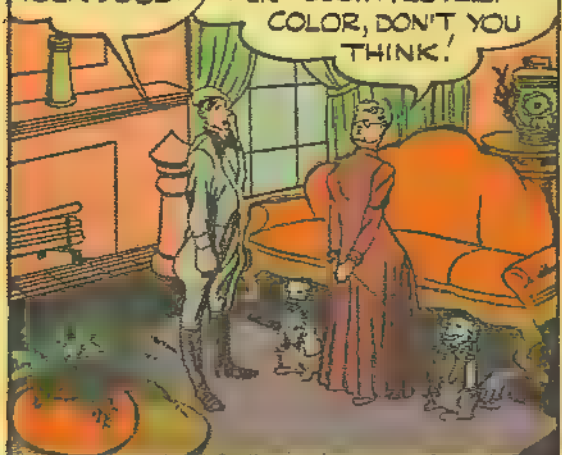
A TRIAL IS THE LAST THING I WANT-- I REMEMBER THE PREVIOUS ONE ONLY TOO WELL! CHANGE THAT LAST LINE, SHAKES!



AND NOT MANY DAYS LATER ---

I'M HERE IN THESE TOGS TO WALK YOUR DOGS!

AH, YES! AND I SEE THAT YOUR UNIFORM MATCHES THE LIGHT BLUE OF THEIR FUR-- SUCH A LOVELY COLOR, DON'T YOU THINK!



SUDDENLY ---

MRS. LUKERS, SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED! YOUR BLUE-WHITE DIAMONDS HAVE DISAPPEARED!

HEAVENS!



I THINK WE SHOULD SEARCH THIS MAN, MRS. LUKERS! HE MAY BE THE THIEF!

THAT UGLY SUSPICION BRINGS TEARS TO MY EYES, BUT START YOUR SEARCH, AND I'LL PROVE IT'S ALL LIES!



SORRY, MADAM-- HE DOESN'T HAVE THE JEWELS ON HIM!

YOU'RE RIGHT-- TAKE OOTSY AND TOOTSY FOR THEIR EXERCISE!

THINK OF YOUR CANINES, SUFFERING IN HEALTH, WHILE YOU KEEP SO BUSY, SEEKING YOUR WEALTH!

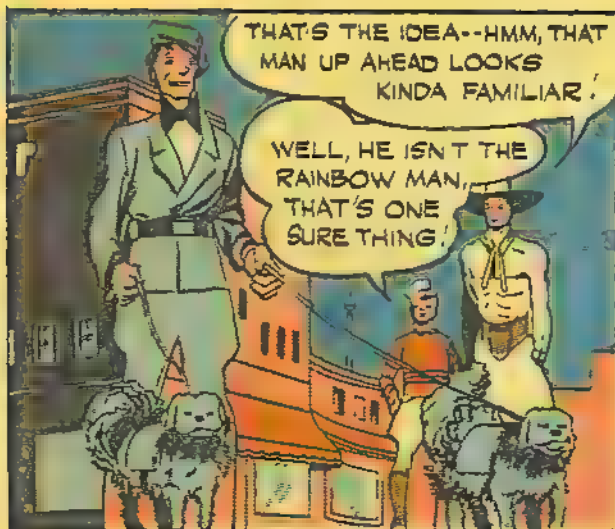


MEANWHILE, ON A NEIGHBORING AVENUE--

JUDGING FROM WHERE I LAST SAW HIM, STUFF, THE RAINBOW MAN IS STAYING CLOSE TO HIGH SOCIETY!

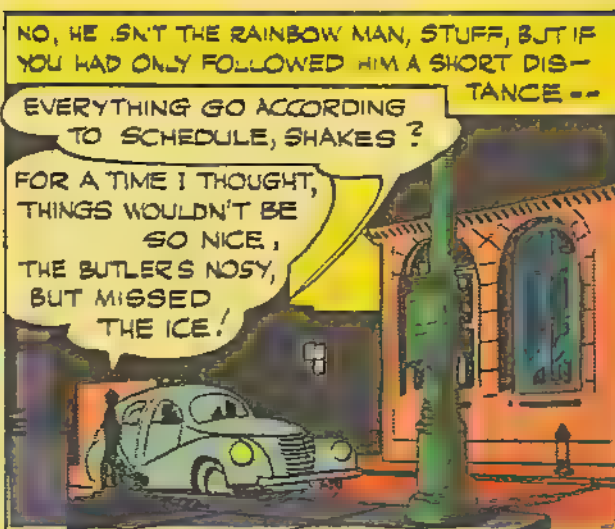
IF WE HANG AROUND THE UPPER CRUST TOO, WE MIGHT SPOT HIM, EH?





THAT'S THE IDEA--HMM, THAT MAN UP AHEAD LOOKS KINDA FAMILIAR!

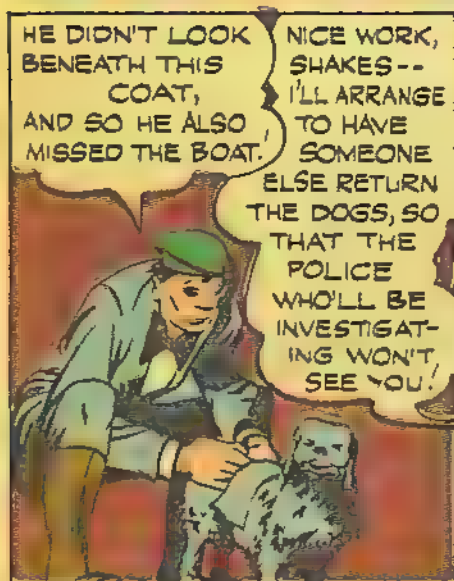
WELL, HE ISN'T THE RAINBOW MAN, THAT'S ONE SURE THING!



NO, HE ISN'T THE RAINBOW MAN, STUFF, BUT IF YOU HAD ONLY FOLLOWED HIM A SHORT DISTANCE--

EVERYTHING GO ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE, SHAKES?

FOR A TIME I THOUGHT, THINGS WOULDN'T BE SO NICE, THE BUTLER'S NOSY, BUT MISSED THE ICE!



HE DIDN'T LOOK BENEATH THIS COAT, AND SO HE ALSO MISSED THE BOAT.

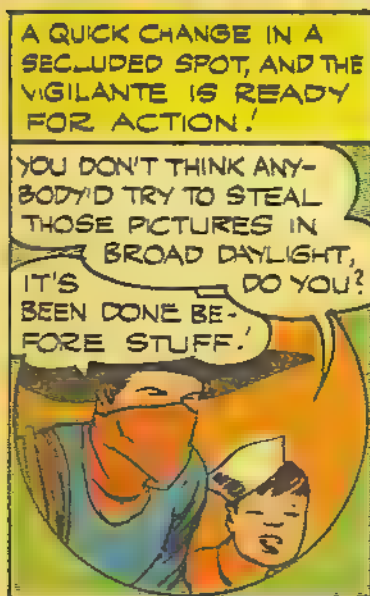
NICE WORK, SHAKES-- I'LL ARRANGE TO HAVE SOMEONE ELSE RETURN THE DOGS, SO THAT THE POLICE WHO'LL BE INVESTIGATING WON'T SEE YOU!



THINGS ARE GOING SMOOTHLY FOR THE RAINBOW MAN! BUT SOMETIME LATER, AS A MOVING VAN BACKS UP TO A VACANT HOUSE...

THAT DIAMOND ROBBERY SOUNDED LIKE THE RAINBOW MAN'S WORK, VIG. GUESS YOU WERE RIGHT!

WE'LL FIND HIM YET! BUT LOOK AT THAT, STUFF--!! REMINDS ME OF A RACKET I'VE HEARD OF-- WE'D BETTER LOOK INTO IT!



A QUICK CHANGE IN A SECLUDED SPOT, AND THE VIGILANTE IS READY FOR ACTION!

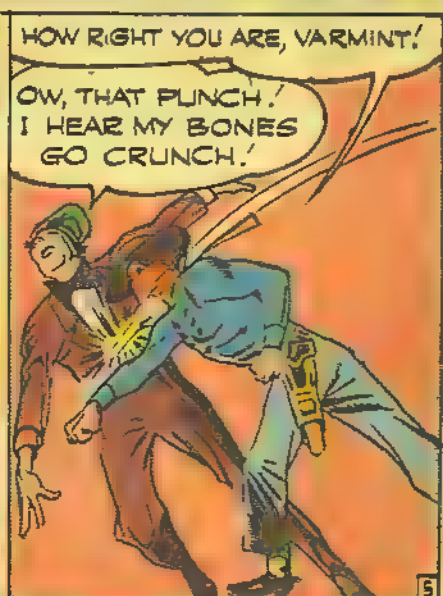
YOU DON'T THINK ANYBODY'D TRY TO STEAL THOSE PICTURES IN BROAD DAYLIGHT, DO YOU? IT'S BEEN DONE BEFORE STUFF!



THE RAINBOW MAN! AND SHAKES! WHAT BEAUTIFUL SCARLET UNIFORMS!

VIGILANTE!

THE WARRIOR OF THE PLAINS, GIVES ME NOTHING BUT PAINS!



HOW RIGHT YOU ARE, VARMINT!

OW, THAT PUNCH! I HEAR MY BONES GO CRUNCH!



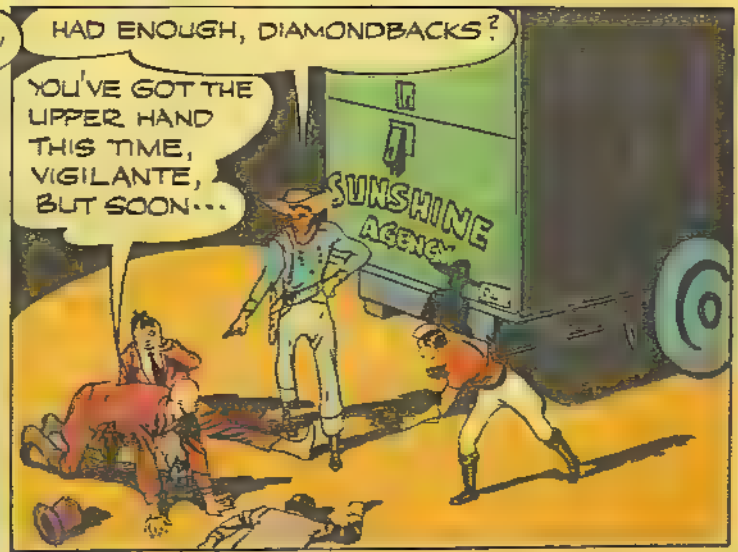
WATCH OUT FOR THAT GUN, STUFF!
I'VE GOT MY EYE ON IT, VIG!



GET OUT OF MY WAY, YOU BRAT!
DO WHAT HE SAYS, STUFF!



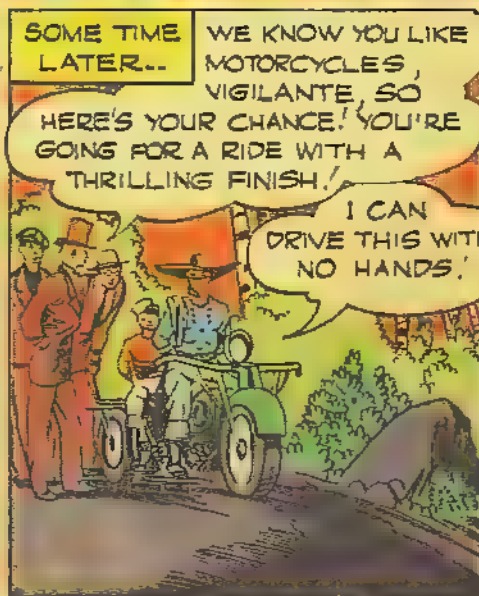
NICE TIMING!
WHAT? NO RHYMING, SHAKES!



HAD ENOUGH, DIAMONDBACKS?
YOU'VE GOT THE LIPPER HAND THIS TIME, VIGILANTE, BUT SOON...



UNEXPECTEDLY... HERE'S OUR CHANCE NOW!
COME ON, LET'S GET 'EM!



SOME TIME LATER... WE KNOW YOU LIKE MOTORCYCLES, VIGILANTE, SO HERE'S YOUR CHANCE! YOU'RE GOING FOR A RIDE WITH A THRILLING FINISH!

I CAN DRIVE THIS WITH NO HANDS!

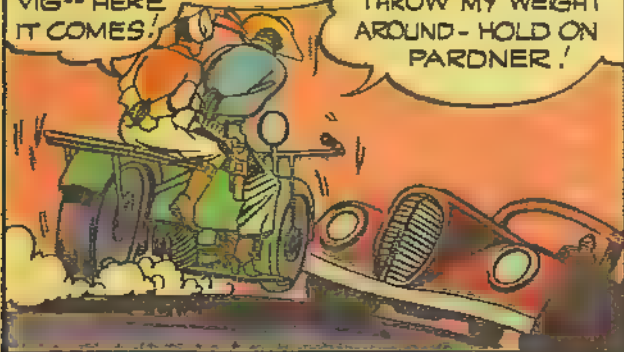


JUST IN CASE YOU TRY TO USE THE BRAKES, VIGILANTE, IT MAY INTEREST YOU TO KNOW THAT THEY DON'T WORK! SO LONG, CHUM!

FASTER AND FASTER POUNDS THE RUSHING,
SNORTING MECHANIZED STEED--

OH--CLOSE YOUR EYES,
VIG-- HERE
IT COMES!

NOT WHILE I CAN
THROW MY WEIGHT
AROUND - HOLD ON
PARDNER !



MADE IT! BUT WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO US?
WE'RE PICKING UP SPEED
ALL THE TIME!



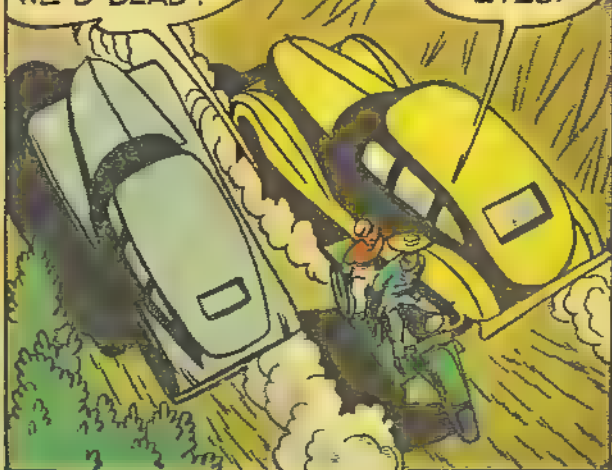
AND NOW THOSE CARS ARE
BLOCKING THE ROAD! SO LONG
VIG-- IT WAS NICE KNOWING
YOU!

GOIN' SOMEPLACE,
STUFF ?



I DIDN'T FEEL ANY
SHOCK, VIG--ARE
WE D-DEAD ?

NOT YET, PARDNER--
YOU CAN OPEN YOUR
EYES!



THE REGULAR BRAKES DON'T
HOLD-- BUT I JUST REMEM-
BERED WHAT THE RAINBOW
MAN FORGOT--

I GOT
SPURS!



SLOWLY, THE SPEEDING CYCLE
LOSES MOMENTUM, TO COME AT
LAST TO A FULL STOP!

WE'VE STOPPED
MOVING! NOW
IF WE CAN
LOOSEN THESE
ROPES!

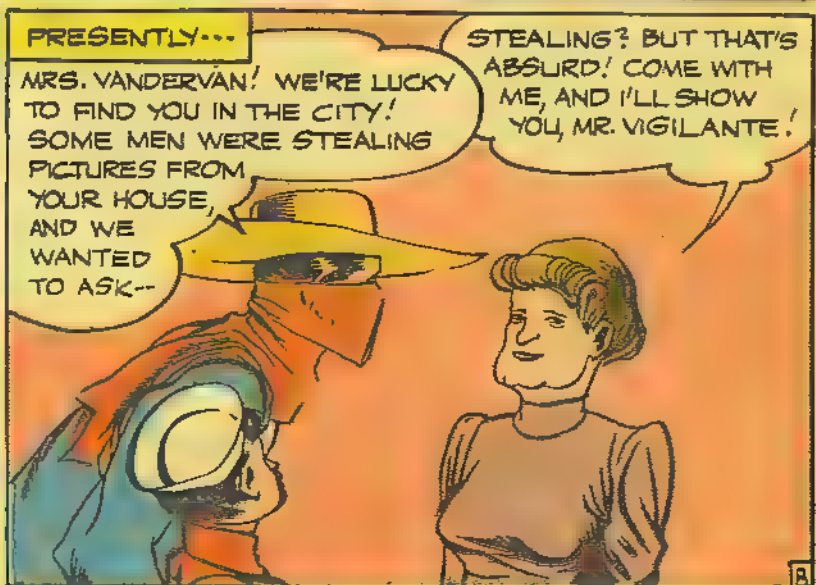
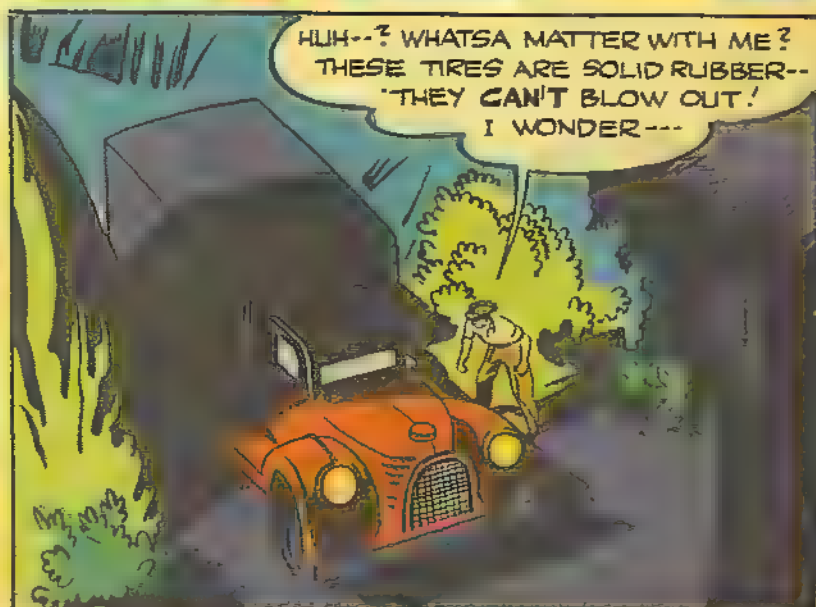
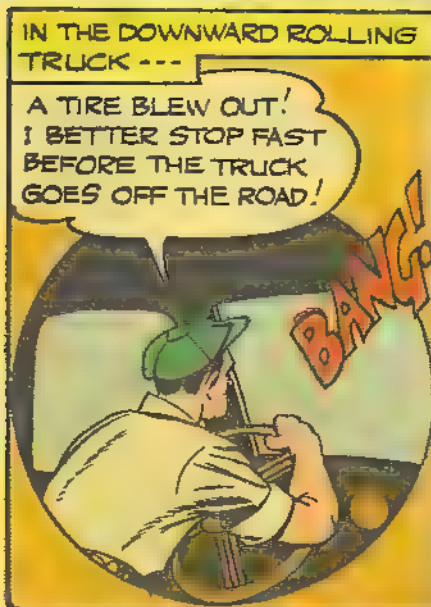
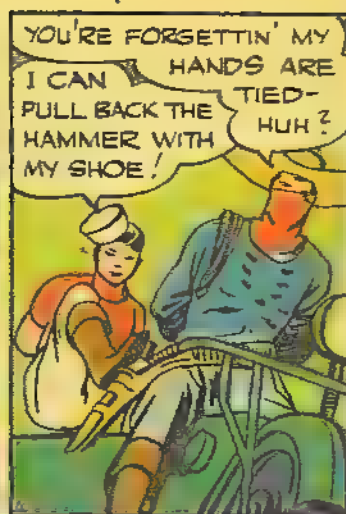
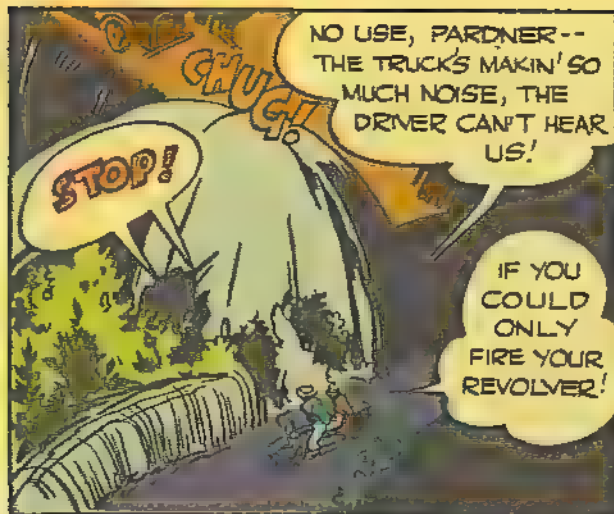
WHEW- I NEVER
THOUGHT WE'D
MAKE IT!-- BUT
WHAT'S THAT
SOUND ?

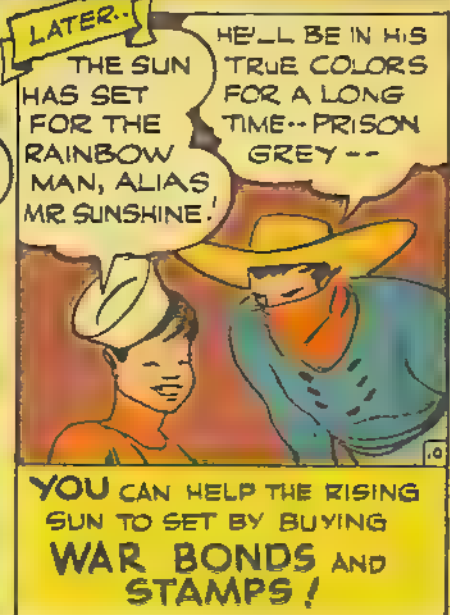
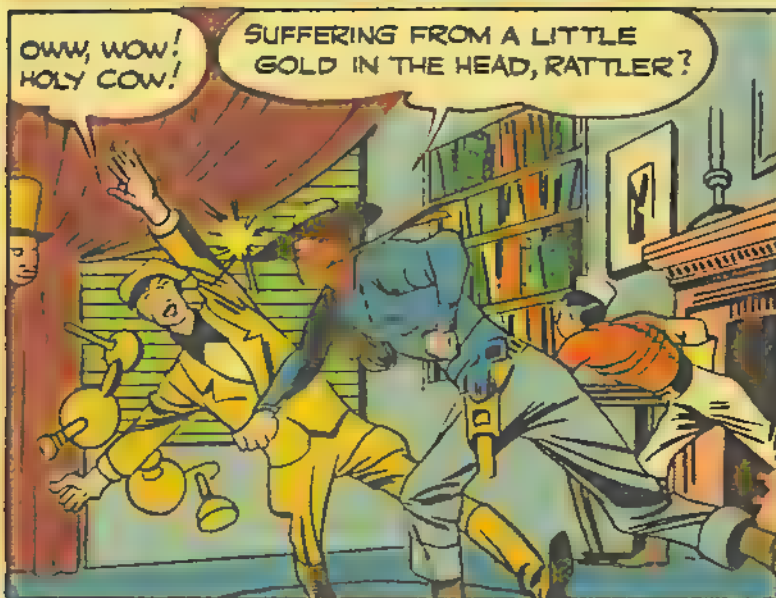
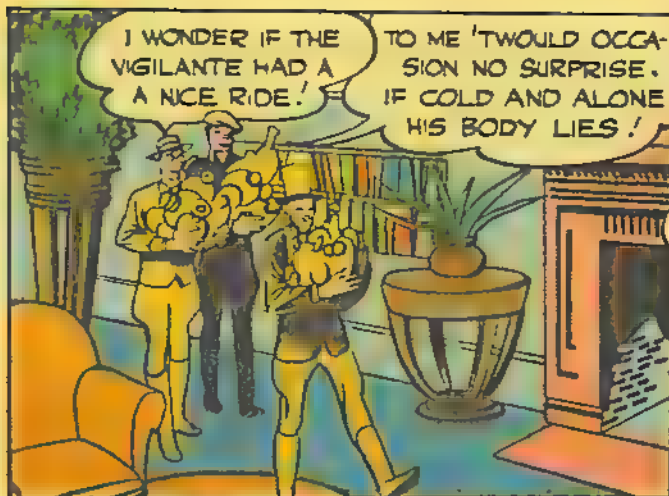


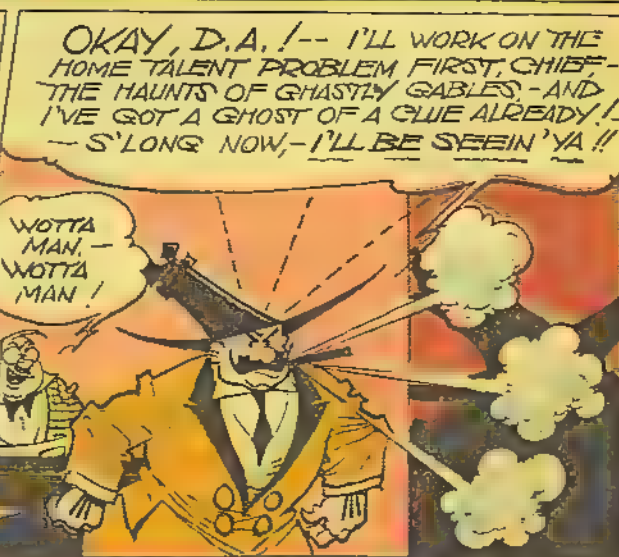
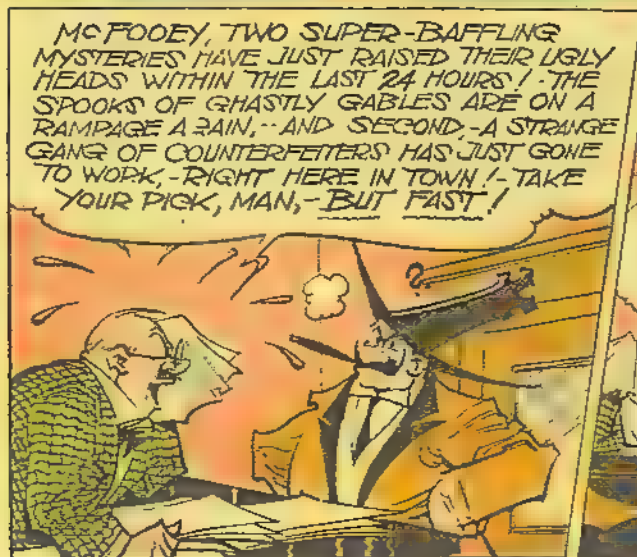
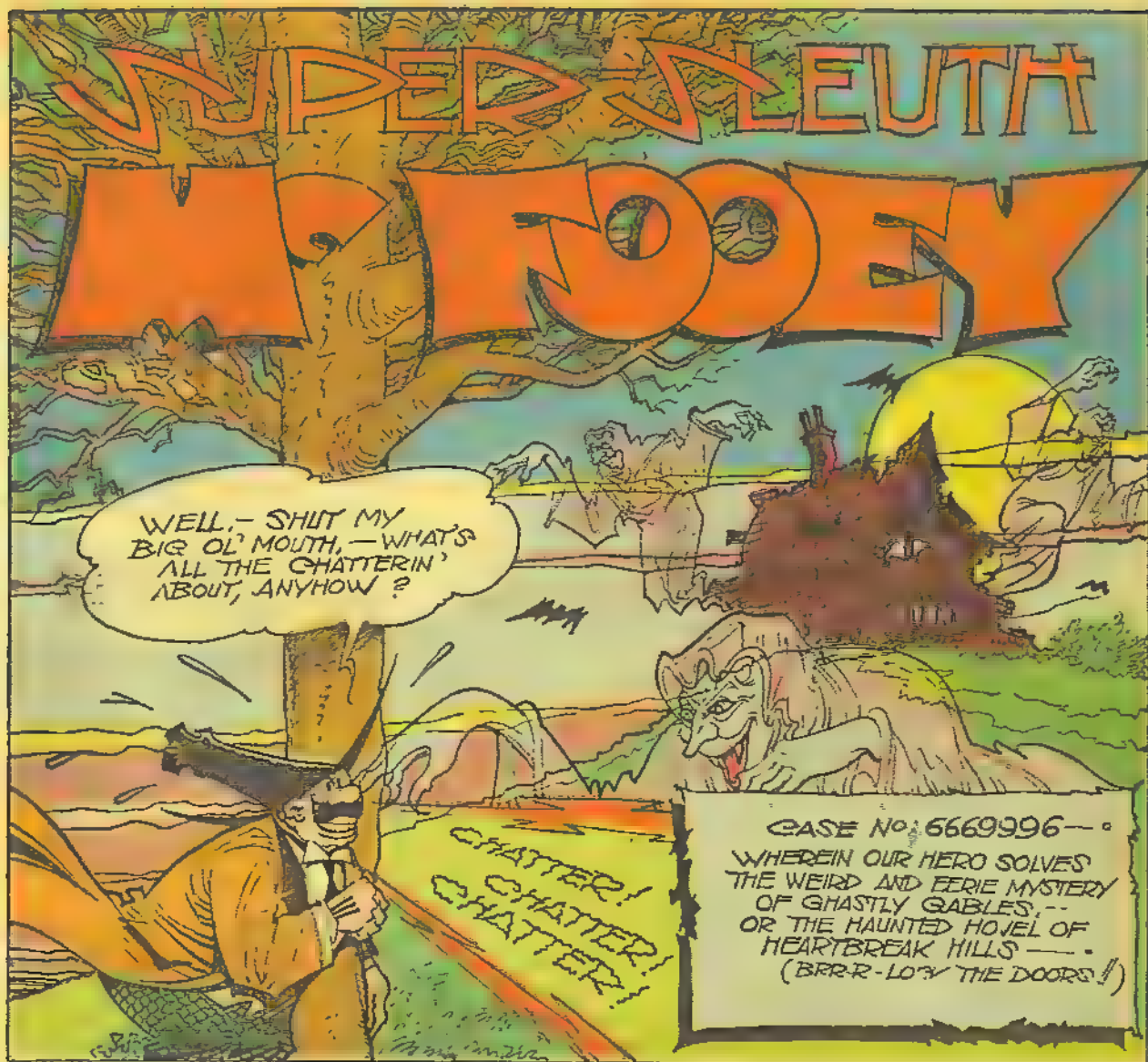
A HEAVY TRUCK! IT'S
PICKING UP SPEED
DOWNHILL--AND IT'S
GOING TO TURN THIS
CORNER AND SMACK
US!

WE'D BETTER
YELL FOR HIM
TO STOP!

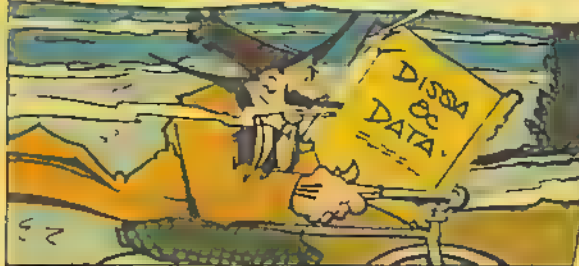




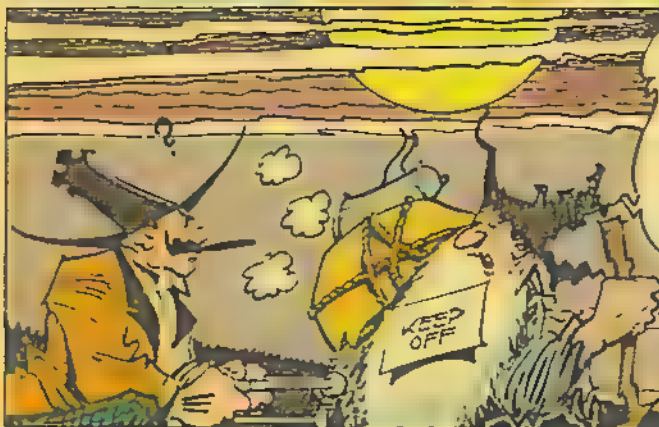




H'MPH! - GHASTLY GABLES: SOLE OWNER,
ONE LARS ENIGMA, AN ECCENTRIC INVENTOR -
LONE RESIDENT OF THE GABLES FOR THIRTY
(VERY ODD) YEARS, LIVES ALONE AND LIKES IT
HISTORY, INCOME, FAMILY TIES, POLITICS, SOCIAL
CONTACTS, HOBBIES, ALL UNKNOWN! - H'MPH!



AH! HERE COMES GRUESOME GOWARDUS,
OUR HILLBILLY HERMIT. I'LL ASK HIM
WHAT NEW BREW IS A-COOKIN' IN THE
WITCH'S CAULDRON. - HEY GRUESOME,
- WHAT GOES ON HERE?

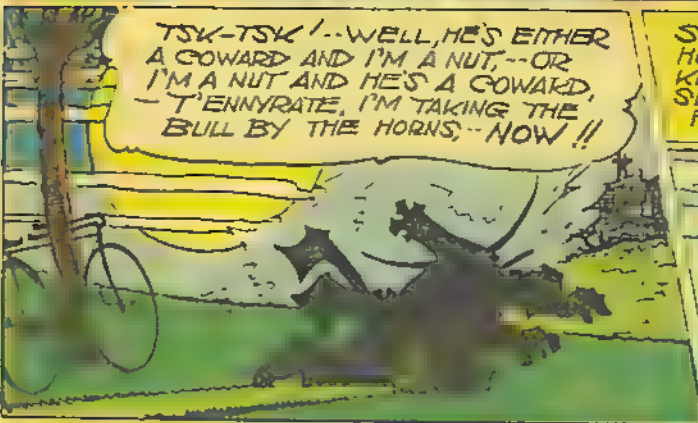


LISTEN, SONNYBOY, - I'VE HERMITED
IN THESE HILLS MAN AN' BOY ALL MY LIFE,
BUT I CAN'T TAKE IT A MINUTE LONGER -
THEM SPOOKS UP AT THE GABLES HAVE
CRACKED THE PLACE WIDE OPEN! -

ALL I WANT BETWEEN THEM AN' ME NOW
IS MILES N' MILES OF MILES. - I'VE EVEN
GOT LESS SENSE THAN YOU EVER HAD,
MCFOOBY, BUT I'M LEAVIN' TOWN FAST!!

GHASTLY
GABLES -
(YOU CAN
HAVE 'EM)

TSK-TSK! - WELL, HE'S EITHER
A COWARD AND I'M A NUT, - OR
I'M A NUT AND HE'S A COWARD,
- T'ENNYRATE, I'M TAKING THE
BULL BY THE HORNS, - NOW!!



STEALTHILY CREEPING UP TO THE HAUNTED
HOUSE MCFOOBY QUIETLY SLIPS HIS SKELETON
KEY INTO THE LOCK, AND THEN SILENTLY
SLINKS THROUGH THE MAIN PANEL OF THE
FRONT DOOR WITH A THUNDEROUS ---



-- HE IS INSTANTLY GREETED BY A
HOST OF THREATENING APPARITIONS
THAT IMMEDIATELY GIVES OUT WITH A
WEIRD WOLFISH WOE-BEGONE WAIL!



FINDING HIMSELF HOPELESSLY SNARED AND SURROUNDED BY OVERWHELMING ODDS, MC FOOEY GROPES FRANTICALLY IN THE STYGIAN DARKNESS TO ESCAPE --

- BUT HIS ETHEREAL ENEMIES WON'T TAKE 'NO' FOR AN ANSWER,--THEY 'GANG-UP' ON HIM- CLOSER,--AND EVER CLOSER!--

SCAT!--I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUSE, BEAT IT!!

YOU FOR ME,--ON TOAST!-- AHA-HAR'- HAR-HAR'- HAH--!!

WELL,--YOU ASKED FOR IT!-- NO FLUFF O'FOR IS EVER GONNA MAKE A FOOF OUT OF A MCFOOEY!!

WITH ONE ALL-OUT ROUND-HOUSE SWING OUR HERO THROWS A BLITZ HAYMAKER FROM THE CARPET,--AND ---

OOPS!-- ME FOOT SLIPPED!

WHAM!

-- I WUZ TRIPPED,--AND A PLANTED WIRE, DID IT!!

INSTANTLY THE ENTIRE 'HOUSE OF THE HAUNTS' WAS PLUNGED INTO OMINOUS SILENT DARKNESS

H'MPH-- I GET IT!-- THE ENTIRE PLACE WAS 'WIRED FOR SOUND' AND I BLEW OUT THE FUSE!!

NOW I'LL JUST FOLLOW THIS WIRE THAT TRIPPED ME, TO IT'S SOURCE,--AND --

--- WELL, WHADDA YA KNOW ABOUT THAT?--THIS PHONEY WALL IS JUST A MOVIN'-PICTURE PROJECTION- SCREEN!!

AND THERE'S LIL' OL' LARS ENIGMA,
THE KID HIMSELF -- AND WITH HIS
LITTLE PROJECTIN' MOVIE MACHINE
TOO, -- MY-MY-MY!

HEH! - HEH!
HEH! - HEH!

-- AN' HE JUST SYTS BACK HERE
IN A 'BLACKOUT' AND FLASHES HIS
GALLOPIN' GHOSTS WHEREVER HE
WANTS TO AIM HIS CAMERA, --
AIN'T THAT SUMP'N?

HEH!
HEH!
HEH!

THIS PLACE IS GETTIN'
BETTER BY THE MINUTE, -- NOW
I'LL JUST TIP-TOE THROUGH
THE TULIPS AND SEE WHAT
GOES ON BEHIND THIS BACK-DROP!

WOW! -- THAT FLOOR-SHOW OF
'SPOOKS ON PARADE' IS
JUST A COVER-UP FOR HIS
REAL INTEREST -- THIS
COUNTERFEITING PLANT!

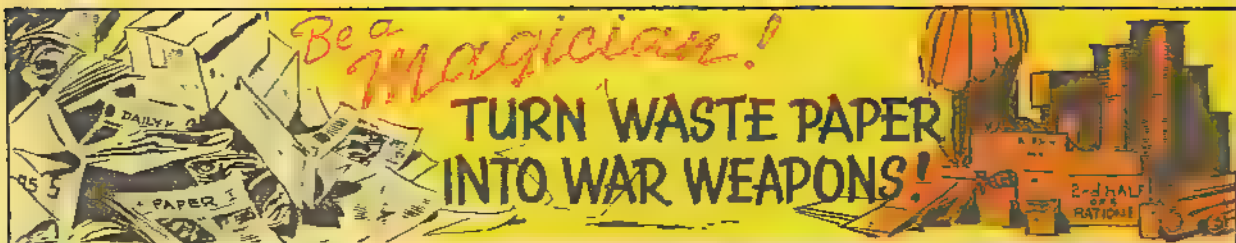
WELL, -- I GUESS THERE'S
NOTHIN' LEFT TO DO, BUT
FOR LITTLE OL' ME TO STAGE 'A
ONE-MAN 'PINCERS' MOVEMENT ON
THE HULL ROOTIN'-TOOTIN'
GANG O' THEM, -- NOW--!!

QUICKLY SWINGING INTO ACTION,
MC FOOEY WHIPS OUT, NOT ONE, --
NOT TWO, NOT THREE, -- BUT FOUR
ITCHY AUTOMATICS -- AND --

REACH FOR ALTITUDE, YOU HYENAS, -- OR
I START DIGGIN' TUNNELS, -- THEN BEGIN
MARCHIN' INTO TOWN TILL I TELL YOU WHEN TO STOP!

HALT! -- HERE Y'ARE, MR. D. A. -- THEY'RE
ALL YOURS -- TWO STONES WITH ONE BIRD,
-- AND BOTH OF YOUR CASES ARE CLOSED!!

WOTTA MAN YOU
ARE, MC FOOEY --
WOTTA MAN --!!



Be a Magician!

TURN WASTE PAPER INTO WAR WEAPONS!



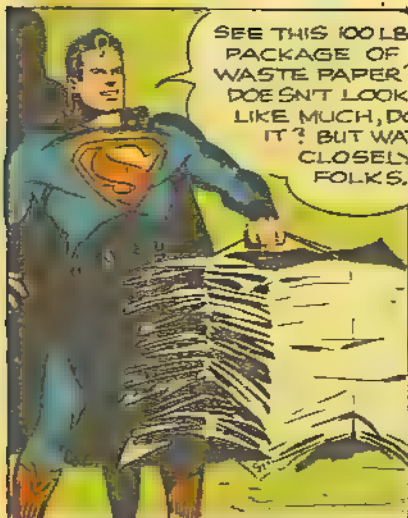
HERE'S MY 100 LBS. SUPERMAN!

**Special
SUPERMAN
SHOW**
Admission
100lbs
OF WASTE
PAPER

AND MINE!



OKAY, FOLKS!
THE BIG ITEM ON
THE SHOW TODAY IS
A LITTLE MAGICAL
STUNT THAT I'M
GOING TO
PERFORM.

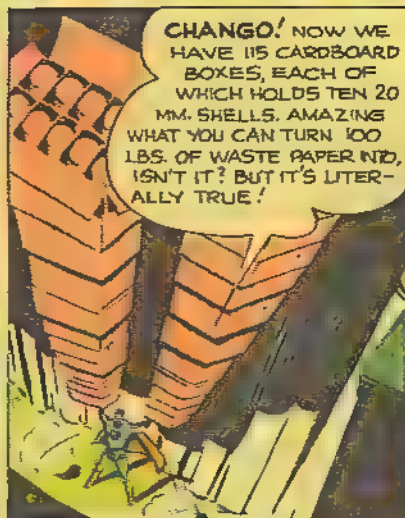


SEE THIS 100LB.
PACKAGE OF
WASTE PAPER?
DOESN'T LOOK
LIKE MUCH, DOES
IT? BUT WATCH
CLOSELY,
FOLKS...



PRESTO!

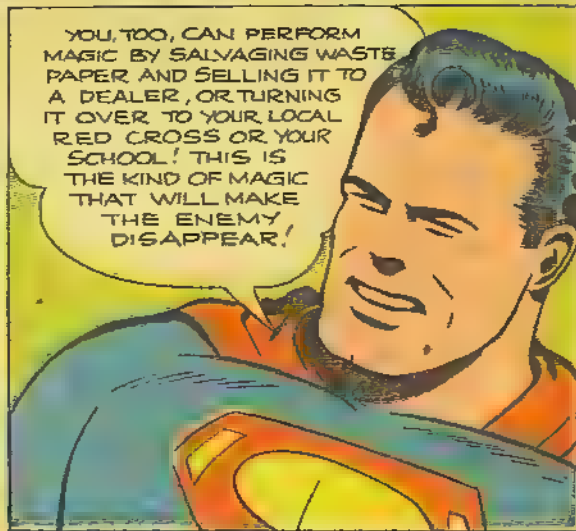
PUFF!



CHANGO! NOW WE
HAVE 115 CARDBOARD
BOXES, EACH OF
WHICH HOLDS TEN 20
MM. SHELLS. AMAZING
WHAT YOU CAN TURN 100
LBS. OF WASTE PAPER INTO,
ISN'T IT? BUT IT'S LITER-
ALLY TRUE!



AND THAT'S ONLY A SAMPLE! WASTE
PAPER IS USED FOR MAKING MANY
MILITARY ESSENTIALS, LIKE PARACHUTE
FLARES, FUSE TANK LININGS, AIRPLANE
SIGNALS, MAPS, ETC. AND WE
NEED WASTE PAPER BADLY,
BECAUSE WE HAVE A
PAPER SHORTAGE!



YOU, TOO, CAN PERFORM
MAGIC BY SALVAGING WASTE
PAPER AND SELLING IT TO
A DEALER, OR TURNING
IT OVER TO YOUR LOCAL
RED CROSS OR YOUR
SCHOOL! THIS IS
THE KIND OF MAGIC
THAT WILL MAKE
THE ENEMY
DISAPPEAR!

CONGO BILL

THE VIOLENT, SUFFOCATING BLASTS OF A SCORCHING DESERT STORM!... THE PITILESS HUNGER-CHARGE OF A DOG PACK OF THE DESERT!... A FORBIDDING FORTRESS-PRISON! - ARE NOT TOO MUCH FOR CONGO BILL TO BRAVE WHEN HE BATTLES HIS WAY TO THE RESCUE OF A FRIEND THROUGH...

"DESERT DANGER!"



TURNING ASIDE FROM A TRIP UP THE NILE FOR A BRIEF TREK AFOOT TO VISIT AN EGYPTOLOGIST FRIEND'S CAMP, CONGO BILL, FAMOUS WORLD TRAVELER, FINDS THAT ALL IS NOT AS IT SHOULD BE!



WHAT'S MORE, SUDDEN DEATH SEEMS IMMINENT!



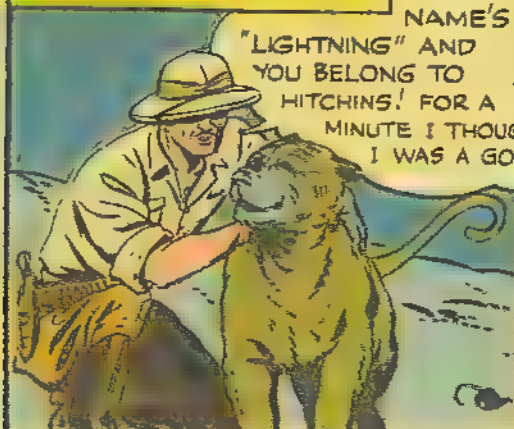
BUT THE HUGE BEAST---
TRAINED KILLER OF THE
INDIAN JUNGLES---
WANTS ONLY AFFECTION!

WH-EWH!
SO
YOUR
NAME'S

"LIGHTNING" AND
YOU BELONG TO
HITCHINS! FOR A
MINUTE I THOUGHT
I WAS A GONER!

LIGHTNING, OLD BOY. I
WISH YOU COULD TALK
AND TELL ME WHAT
HAPPENED HERE! GUESS
THE BEST THING I CAN
DO IS CAMP FOR THE NIGHT AND
HEAD BACK TO THE RIVER IN THE
MORNING... STRANGE... I'VE
A FEELING I'M BEING
WATCHED...

IN THE STILLNESS OF THE
NIGHT, A SINISTER FIGURE
HOVERS OVER BILL'S RESTING
PLACE!

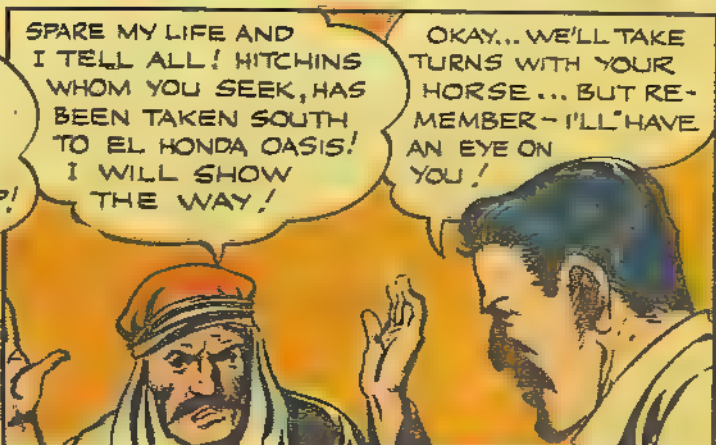
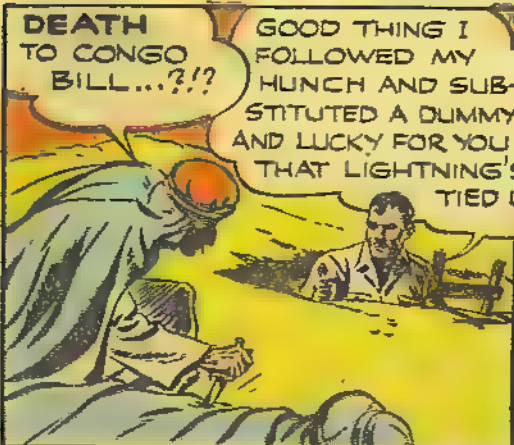


DEATH
TO CONGO
BILL...?!!

GOOD THING I
FOLLOWED MY
HUNCH AND SUB-
STITUTED A DUMMY!
AND LUCKY FOR YOU
THAT LIGHTNING'S
TIED UP!

SPARE MY LIFE AND
I TELL ALL! HITCHINS
WHOM YOU SEEK, HAS
BEEN TAKEN SOUTH
TO EL HONDA OASIS!
I WILL SHOW
THE WAY!

OKAY... WE'LL TAKE
TURNS WITH YOUR
HORSE... BUT RE-
MEMBER - I'LL HAVE
AN EYE ON
YOU!



MILES OUT, ON THE DESERT,
A BLISTERING SAND STORM
SUDDENLY ARISES...

WE'LL
HAVE TO
MAKE CAMP
OF SOME
KIND!

NO POWER ON
EARTH CAN
SAVE US FROM
SUCH A WIND!
I, ASKUT, SAY IT!
LOOK! THE
DREAD
FUNNEL!
WE ARE
LOST!

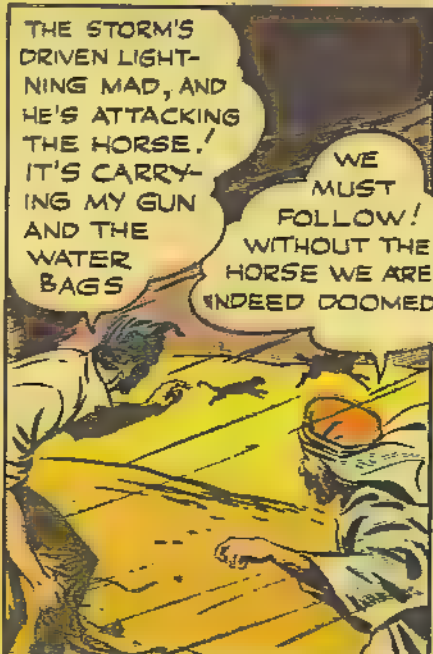
THE STORM'S
DRIVEN LIGHT-
NING MAD, AND
HE'S ATTACKING
THE HORSE!
IT'S CARRY-
ING MY GUN
AND THE
WATER
BAGS

WE
MUST
FOLLOW!
WITHOUT THE
HORSE WE ARE
INDEED DOOMED!

THE PURSUIT LEADS TO...

WELL I'LL BE
BLOWED! HE
WAS HERDING
THE HORSE TO
THIS SHELTER!
AND I'LL BET HE
KNEW WE'D
FOLLOW!

THE DREAD
FUNNEL
MOVES ON.
WE ARE
SAVED--
BUT ALL
OUR FOOD
IS BLOWN
AWAY!



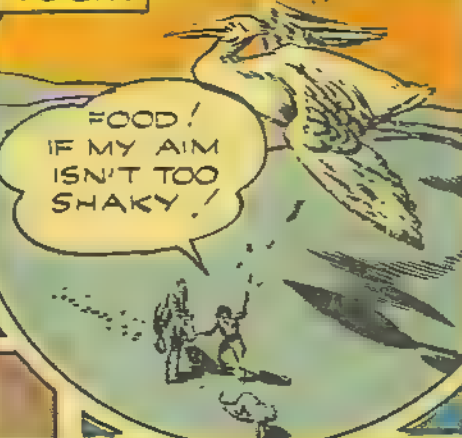
DAYS OF TORTURED TREKKING FOLLOW... ASKUT, THE EGYPTIAN CAN NO LONGER TAKE HIS TURN ON FOOT... HE RIDES, AS CONGO BILL TRUDGES ONWARD... EVER ONWARD...

SO FAR WE'VE BEEN LUCKY IN FINDING WATER-HOLES, BUT WE CAN'T KEEP GOING MUCH LONGER WITHOUT FOOD...



AS IF IN ANSWER TO BILL'S THOUGHT, A PROVIDENTIAL BIRD OF PASSAGE WINGS ACROSS HIS FIELD OF VISION!

FOOD! IF MY AIM ISN'T TOO SHAKY!



THE BIRD OFFERS MORE THAN FOOD - A MESSAGE TIED TO ITS LEG!

THE EL JABU OASIS? AND ASKUT, THE SCOUNDREL, HAS BEEN LEADING ME TOWARD EL HOUD INSTEAD!

ASKUT, FOR TRYING TO LEAD ME ASTRAY, I SHOULD HAVE LET YOU STARVE INSTEAD OF SHARING THE BIRD!

CONGO BILL IS MERCIFUL...



AT LAST - THE LEGION FORTRESS AT EL JABU OASIS!

MADE IT! NOW TO RECONNOITER! ONE FALSE MOVE OUT OF YOU, ASKUT, AND IT'S CURTAINS!

VERILY, YOUR SPEECH IS STRANGE -- BUT I HEED!



SUDDENLY, FROM OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS, TWO BLOOD-THIRSTY DOG PACKS ARE RELEASED--ASKUT EXPECTING THE MOVE, KNOWS THAT HE HIMSELF WILL NOT BE HARMED!

GREAT SCOTT! CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO PACKS OF WILD DESERT DOGS!



GOOD BOY, LIGHTNING! BUT IT'S NO USE - THE OTHER PACK ALONE IS TOO MANY FOR ME TO HANDLE!



BUT BILL HAS NOT RECKONED ON THE SPEED OF THE KILLER-CHEETAH!

IF I WASN'T SEEING IT, I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT!! FROM ONE PACK TO THE OTHER, IN SECONDS!



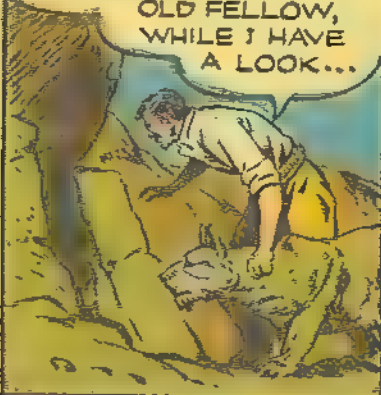
SAFE, FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST, BILL HAS TIME TO PLAN...

LIGHTNING, OLD BOY, YOU'RE TOPS! AND NOW, SINCE ASKUT SNEAKED INTO THE FORT TO HIS MOB DURING THE COMMOTION, WE'LL HAVE TO FIGURE A WAY OF CRACKING IT WITHOUT ANY INSIDE DOPE!



AFTER PATIENT RECONNOITERING...

OHO! AN OLD STRATEGIC TUNNEL! SO THAT'S HOW ASKUT VANISHED SO SMOOTHLY! STAY HERE, OLD FELLOW, WHILE I HAVE A LOOK...



A RECEPTION COMMITTEE? GREETINGS!



BOP



HIYAH!-- HIYAH!

HIYAH, YOURSELF!

A PRISON CELL--AND AN OLD FRIEND!

WELL, "HITCH," I FINALLY GOT HERE. AFTER RECEIVING YOUR MESSAGE!

CONGO BILL!!

WHAT AN EXTRA-ORDINARY PIECE OF LUCK--THE MESSAGE FALLING INTO YOUR HANDS!



AFTER EXPLAINING THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS CAPTURE, BILL LISTENS TO HITCHINS' STORY...

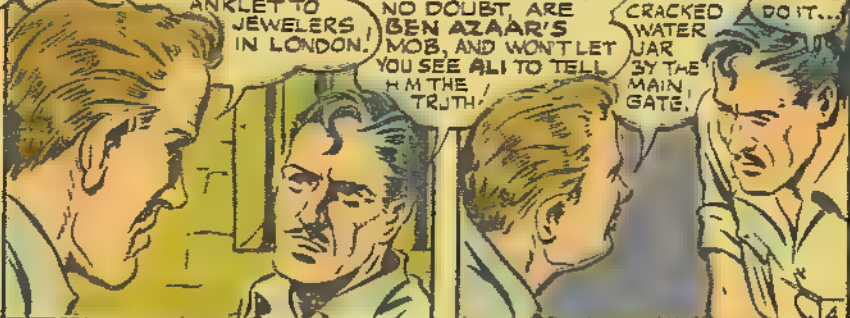
IT'S ALL ON ACCOUNT OF AN ANCIENT JEWELLED ANKLET I FOUND AND HID! TWO CLANS ARE INVOLVED--ALI HABEEL'S AND BEN AZAAR'S! ALI HABEEL IS REALLY A GOOD FELLOW, BUT BEN AZAAR HAS CONVINCED HIM THAT I INTEND TO SELL THE ANKLET TO JEWELERS IN LONDON.

I SEE! ALI HABEEL SIMPLY DOESN'T WANT THE ANKLET TO GO OUT OF EGYPT--DOESN'T KNOW YOU HAVE THE USUAL SIGNED PERMIT, SHOWING THE JEWEL WILL BE PLACED IN ALEXANDRIA'S MUSEUM--AND OUR GUARDS, NO DOUBT, ARE BEN AZAAR'S MOB, AND WON'T LET YOU SEE ALI TO TELL HIM THE TRUTH!

EXACTLY! AND BEN AZAAR

WANTS THE ANKLET FROM ME, TO SELL IT HIMSELF! IT'S HIDDEN BACK AT THE EXCAVATION. AS FOR THE PERMIT, I MANAGED TO DROP IT INTO A CRACKED WATER JAR BY THE MAIN GATE.

THEN ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS BREAK OUT OF HERE--GET THAT PAPER--SHOW IT TO ALI HABEEL--AND THEN GO FOR AZAAR'S MOB! AND HERE'S HOW WE DO IT...



MOMENTS LATER... THE GUARD SEES AN UNBELIEVABLE SIGHT!

GET ME INTO THE MESS, WILL YOU!

GOOD ACTING, 'HITCH'!

HELP!
HELP!
A-R-G-G-H!
HELP!

HIYAH! THE SECOND PRISONER CHOKES HIS FRIEND, WHOSE SECRET WE MUST HAVE!



THE "ACT" IS SUCCESSFUL!

A LESSON, CHUM-- NEVER INTERFERE IN FRIENDLY ARGUMENTS!

ALLEZ-OOP!

OOF!



IN THESE OUTFITS, I CAN GET THAT PAPER AND YOU CAN BE LOCATING ALI HABEEL!

LET'S GO!



BUT JUST AS CONGO BILL RETRIEVES THE SIGNED PERMIT...

HERE IT IS... BUT I'M SPOTTED! MY BOOT SHOWING, I BET!

FIRES OF TORMENT! THE WHITE GIANT RUNNETH ABOUT FREED! ALL AID! ALL AID!



THIS SHOULD KEEP YOU QUIET!

HAAAAH!



AND AT THE QUARTERS OF ALI HABEEL...

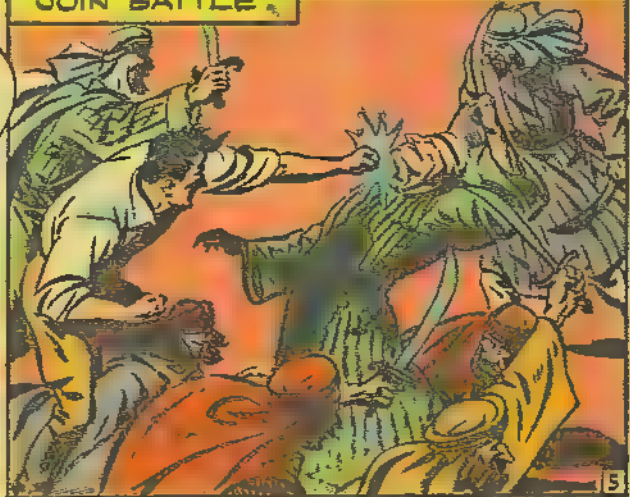
SEE YOU MADE IT, HITCH! HERE'S THE PERMIT, AND NOW LET'S GET OUT OF THESE ROBES!

GREAT! FROM NOW ON THINGS OUGHT TO HAPPEN AROUND HERE!

YOUR TONGUE SPOKE TRULY, O' HITCHINS! YOU SHALL BE FITLY AVENGED!



THE FORCES OF THE SEPARATE CLANS JOIN BATTLE!



ONE UP ON YOU,
BILL! THIS IS
BEN AZAAR!

- AND THIS IS MY
TREACHEROUS
FRIEND, ASKUT!



THE FURIOUS COMBAT IS
SHORT BUT DECISIVE!

A RETURN TRIP TO HITCH'S
EXCAVATION...

AND LATER... THE
PRICELESS TROPHY...

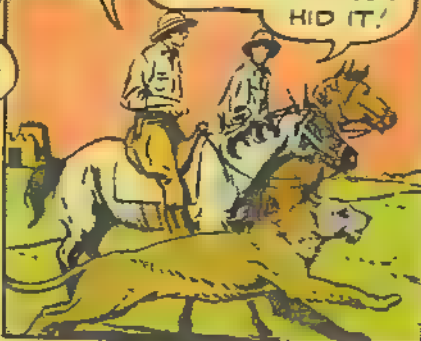
WELL, THAT
WASHES UP
BEN AZAAR
AND HIS
THUGS!

'YOUR SCROLL'
I AM GRATE-
FUL THAT
YOU HAVE
BROUGHT TO
LIGHT A GRAVE
INJUSTICE!

THANK
YOU, ALI!

SOME CAT,
HITCH!
SAVED
MY LIFE
TWICE

YES, LIGHT-
NING'S A HANDY
COMPANION!...
HOPE THAT ANKLETS
STILL BENEATH
THE ROCK WHERE I
HID IT!



SO THIS IS
THE LITTLE
BAUBLE
THAT CAUSED
ALL THE
COMMOTION?

IT CERTAINLY
MADE THINGS
HOT FOR US
FOR A WHILE!
BUT ALL'S WELL
THAT ENDS
WELL...



YOU PRISONERS'LL JUST HAFTA
WAIT 'TILL I READ THIS NEW
ISSUE OF WORLD'S FINEST
BEFORE I TAKE YOU TO
THE REAR!

WISH COULD READ
HON. ENGLISH... WOULD
ASK 'MELICAN BOY FOR
SECOND DIBS ON FINE
MAGAZINE!



AMERICOMMANDO

"THERE ARE IN THIS WORLD TWO POWERS...THE SWORD AND THE SPIRIT!...THE SPIRIT HAS ALWAYS VANQUISHED THE SWORD!"

Napoleon...

BERNARD BAILY...



YES... NAPOLEON SAID IT... AND SAID IT SADLY! BUT THE DESPOTS OF JAPAN HAVE YET TO LEARN THEIR LESSON AS HE DID... THAT TERROR EXECUTIONS CAN NEVER HALT THE FIGHT OF FREE MEN AGAINST TYRANNY! AND IT TAKES THE ACE OF AMERICA'S FIGHTING MEN--AMERICOMMANDO...TO GIVE THE LITTLE HITLERS OF THE EAST THEIR FIRST LESSON, AS HE SWEEPS WITH FURY INTO THEIR MIDST TO SNATCH HIS COMRADES FROM THE VERY ARMS OF DEATH IN HIS...

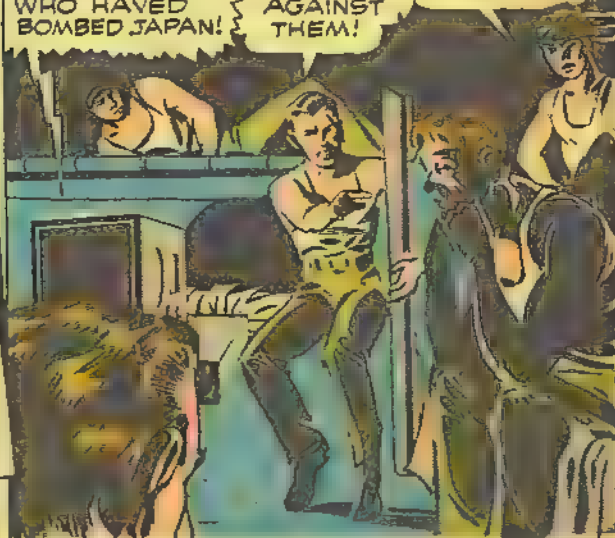
MISSION for FREEDOM!

DARING AMERICAN SUBMARINE RESTS QUIETLY AND WATCHFULLY AT THE BOTTOM OF TOKYO BAY! INSIDE THE SUB, TENSE NERVES ARE STRETCHED TO THE BREAKING POINT...

...AND WE WILL SHOOT ALL CAPTURED AMERICAN PILOTS WHO HAVED BOMBED JAPAN!

HEAR THAT? HE HASN'T GOT A CHANCE AGAINST THEM!

OH, YEAH? WELL... HE'S THE GUY THAT CAN DO IT!!



MEANWHILE, IN THE JAPANESE PRISON...

WELL...LOOKS LIKE THEY INTEND TO SHOOT US, BOYS! THEY THINK EXECUTING US WILL SCARE THE BOYS IN OUR AIRFORCES!



BY ORDER OF THE MILITARY COMMAND...YOU ARE TO BE SHOT FOR BOMBING HOSPITALS...SCHOOLS...

CUT OUT THE BUNK! YOU KNOW AS WELL AS THE REST OF THE WORLD THAT WE BOMBED THE TOKYO NAVAL BASE!



THERE'S LOTS MORE WHERE WE CAME FROM ...AND THEY'LL BLAST YOU UNTIL YOU CRY UNCLE...UNCLE SAM!

TAKE THEM OUT!

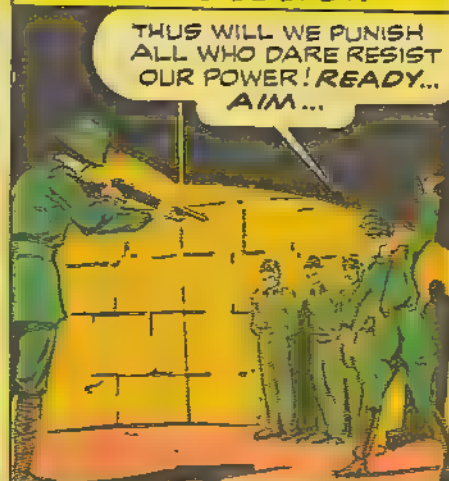


LINE THEM UP AGAINST THE WALL ...WE SHALL MAKE QUICK WORK OF THEM!



NO TREACHERY COULD BE VILER...PRISONERS OF WAR ARE TO BE SHOT!

THUS WILL WE PUNISH ALL WHO DARE RESIST OUR POWER! READY... AIM...



Then...

THIS IS MURDER! EVERY JAPANESE OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR IT WILL BE PUNISHED...AND SOON!

WHA--?



IT-IT CAME FROM THERE, HONORABLE CAPTAIN! IT IS SOME SPIRIT FROM AMERICA SPEAKING...

IT MUST BE A TRICK! SURROUND THAT PLACE AND CAPTURE WHOEVER IT IS!



BUT AS THE JAPANESE SOLDIERS CAUTIOUSLY ADVANCE---A SILENT FIGURE DROPS DOWN FROM THE WALL BEHIND THE PRISONERS!

AMERICOM...

SHHHH!! WE MUST ACT FAST!

OKAY, AMERICOMANDO ... JUST LET US AT THESE...

WORK QUIETLY! WE MUST GET THEM BY SURPRISE...



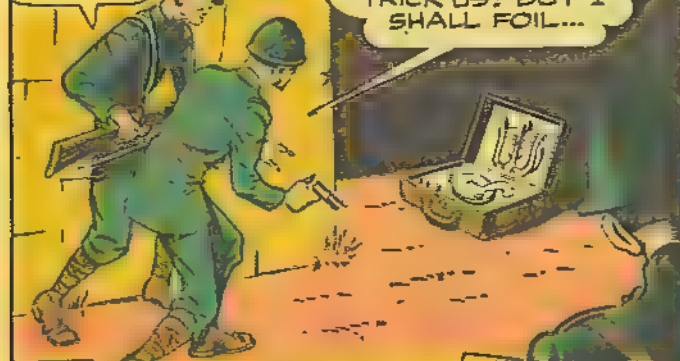
THE JAPANESE DISCOVER THE "EVIL SPIRIT" FROM AMERICA!

COME OUT OR I'LL SHOO--

IT IS NOTHING BUT A MUSIC BOX! SOMEONE IS TRYING TO TRICK US! BUT I SHALL FOIL...

UGH! AMERICOMANDO!

NOT TRYING TO TRICK YOU! I DID!!



AND THE NEXT MOMENT...

GIVE IT TO 'EM, BOYS! SLAP 'EM SILLY!!

AMERICANS HAVE LANDED! WE ARE SURROUNDED!!

WELL...THAT'S THAT! WE TOOK CARE OF THEM!

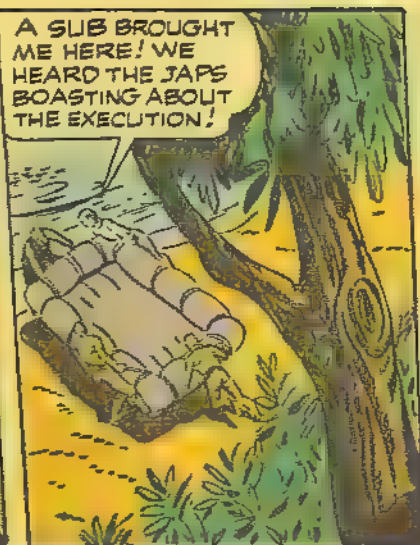
WE'RE A LONG WAY FROM BEING FREE YET!--USE THAT LADDER TO GET OVER THE WALL!



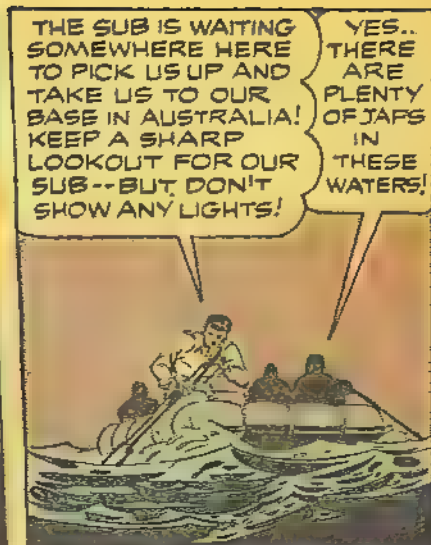


I HAVE A RUBBER BOAT HIDDEN NEAR THE BEACH! WE'VE GOT TO GET TO IT BEFORE THEY REALIZE THEIR EXECUTION PARTY HAS FIZZLED!

BUT WE ARE IN TOKYO BAY... WE CAN'T ROW BACK TO THE STATES!



A SUB BROUGHT ME HERE! WE HEARD THE JAPS BOASTING ABOUT THE EXECUTION!



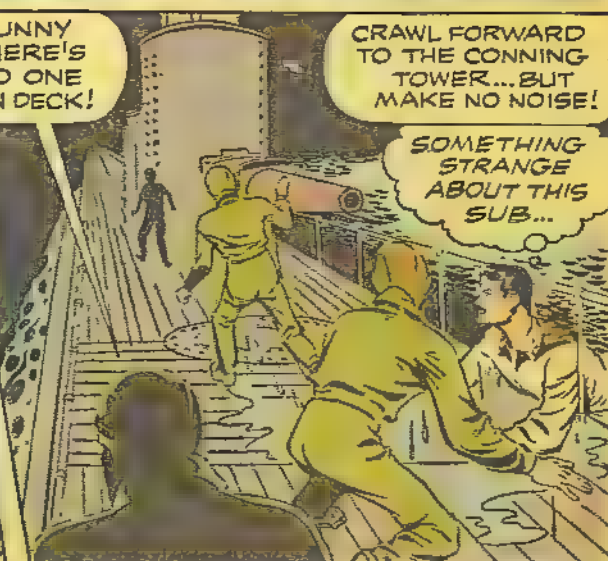
THE SUB IS WAITING SOMEWHERE HERE TO PICK US UP AND TAKE US TO OUR BASE IN AUSTRALIA! KEEP A SHARP LOOKOUT FOR OUR SUB--BUT DON'T SHOW ANY LIGHTS!

YES... THERE ARE PLENTY OF JAPS IN THESE WATERS!



THERE IT IS! WE'RE SAVED!

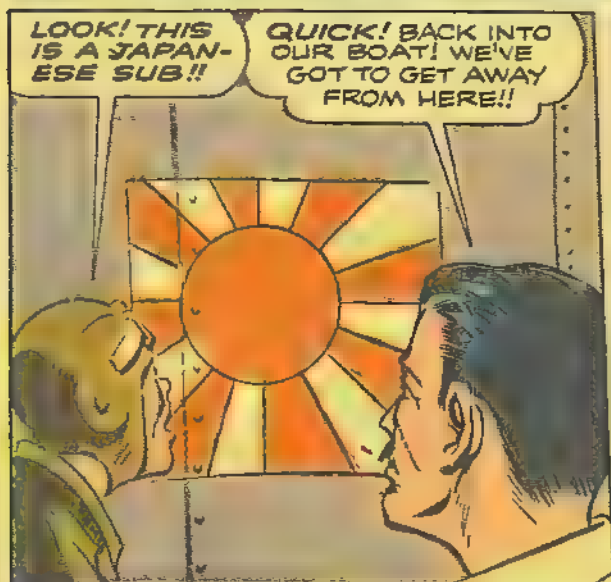
YES! BUT BE CAREFUL! WE CAN MAKE A MISTAKE IN THE DARK AND SPOIL EVERYTHING AT THE LAST MINUTE!



FUNNY THERE'S NO ONE ON DECK!

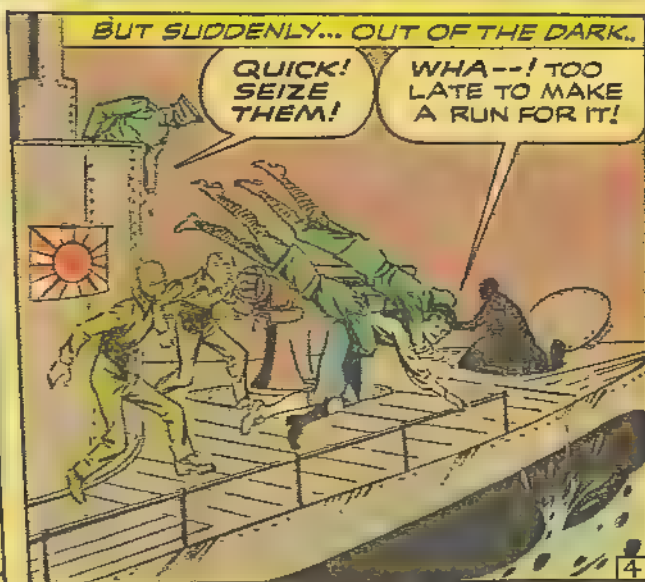
CRAWL FORWARD TO THE CONNING TOWER...BUT MAKE NO NOISE!

SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS SUB...



LOOK! THIS IS A JAPANESE SUB!!

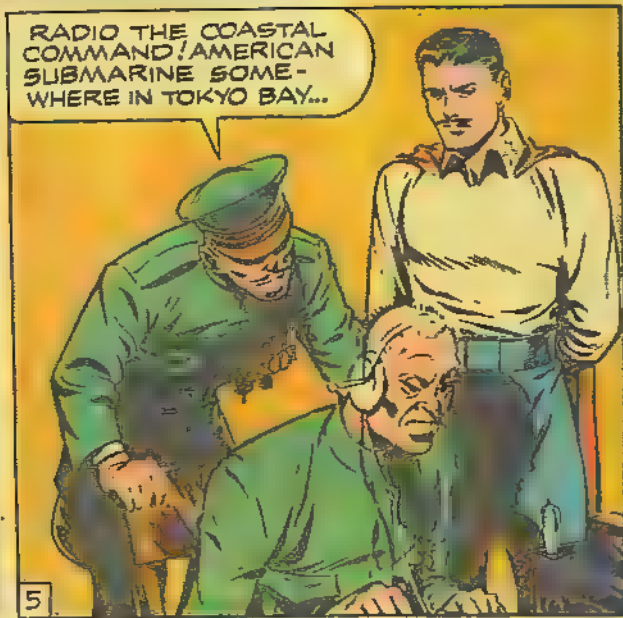
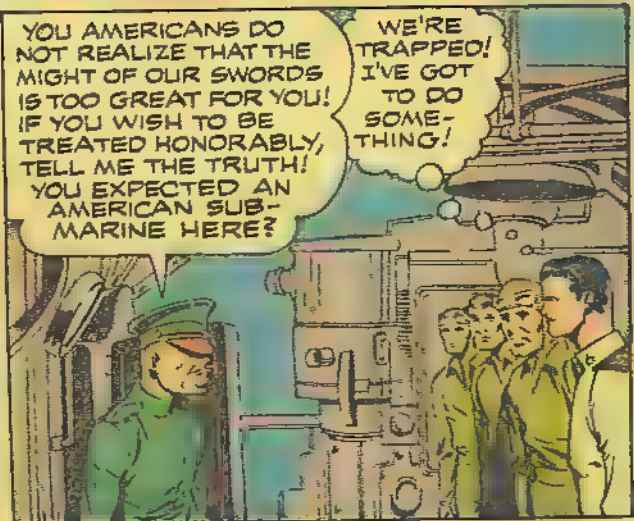
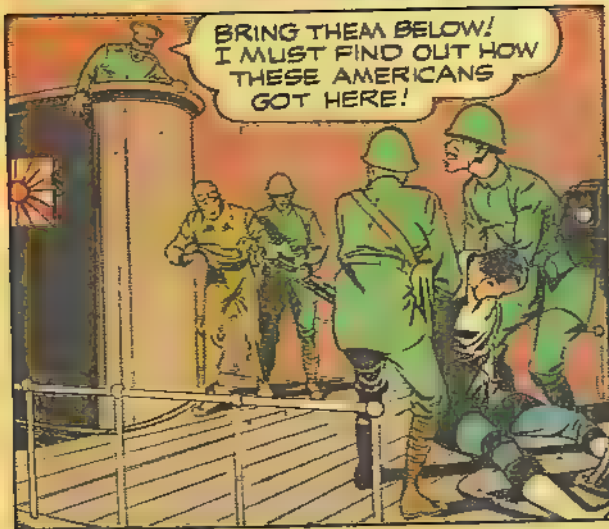
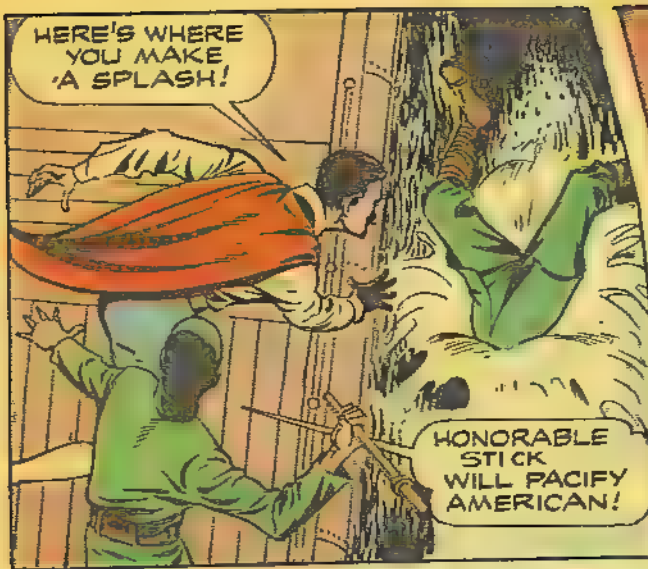
QUICK! BACK INTO OUR BOAT! WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE!!



BUT SUDDENLY... OUT OF THE DARK...

QUICK! SEIZE THEM!

WHA--! TOO LATE TO MAKE A RUN FOR IT!



AT A NEARBY AIRFIELD...

THE AMERICAN SUBMARINE WILL SHOW A LIGHT-- AND WHEN IT DOES, DESTROY IT!

I WILL HAVE NO MERCY, HONORABLE CAPTAIN! BANZAI!



AS THE BOMBER CIRCLES OVER THE BAY...

YOUR SUBMARINE WILL SOON BE BOMBED TO THE BOTTOM!

I HAVE FAILED... BUT AT LEAST I WILL NOT BE TORTURED BY THE SIGHT OF OUR SUBMARINE BEING BOMBED!



HA-HA-HA! I WILL NOT DENY YOU THAT PLEASURE! IT WILL BE MOST AMUSING TO SEE THE AMERICANS DIE! IT WILL TEACH YOU TO STAY AT HOME!



A CRUEL ORDER IS GIVEN...AND THE AMERICAN PRISONERS ARE BROUGHT ON DECK...TO WITNESS THE DEATH OF THEIR COMRADES!

DO YOU SEE THAT? IT IS OUR PLANE! SOON YOUR SUBMARINE WILL BE BOMBED...AND YOU CAN DO NOTHING ABOUT IT!

DON'T BE TOO SURE OF THAT!



SLOWLY, AMERICOMANDO SLIPS HIS HAND INTO A SECRET POCKET IN HIS BELT...

THE SPIRIT OF FREE MEN CANNOT BE CONQUERED BY WEAPONS! AND YOU'RE GOING TO FIND THAT OUT...SOON!



BUT THE CUNNING JAPANESE OFFICER SEES THE FLARE OF THE MATCH!

HA! TREACHERY! KILL THEM!!

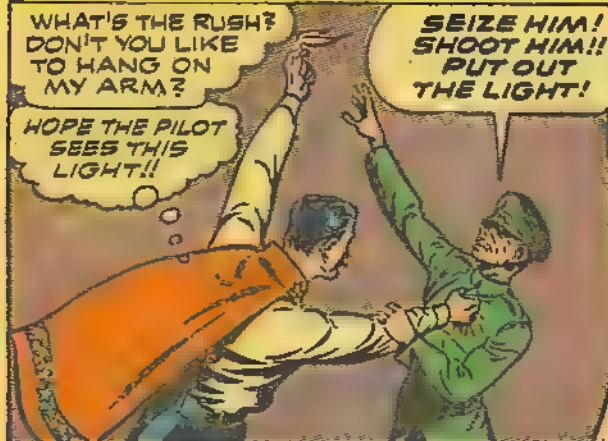


THE FURIOUS LEAP DOES NOT CATCH AMERICOMMANDO OFF GUARD!

WHAT'S THE RUSH?
DON'T YOU LIKE
TO HANG ON
MY ARM?

HOPE THE PILOT
SEES THIS
LIGHT!!

**SEIZE HIM!
SHOOT HIM!!
PUT OUT
THE LIGHT!**



THERE GOES THE
LIGHT! THE LAST
CHANCE IS
GONE NOW...



**HAS THE
LAST
CHANCE
REALLY
GONE? NO!
FOR THE
MOMENTARY
FLICKER
OF THE
MATCH IN
TOTAL
DARKNESS
IS VISIBLE
FOR MANY
MILES!
AND THE
DEADLY
EYES OF
THE
ENEMY
HAVE
SEEN IT!**

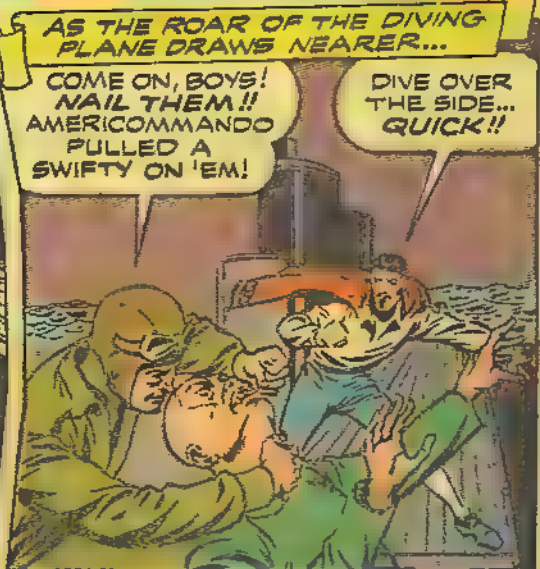
THAT WAS THEIR
LIGHT! THEY CANNOT
FOOL A JAPANESE
WARRIOR BY
PUTTING IT OUT!



**AS THE ROAR OF THE DIVING
PLANE DRAWS NEARER...**

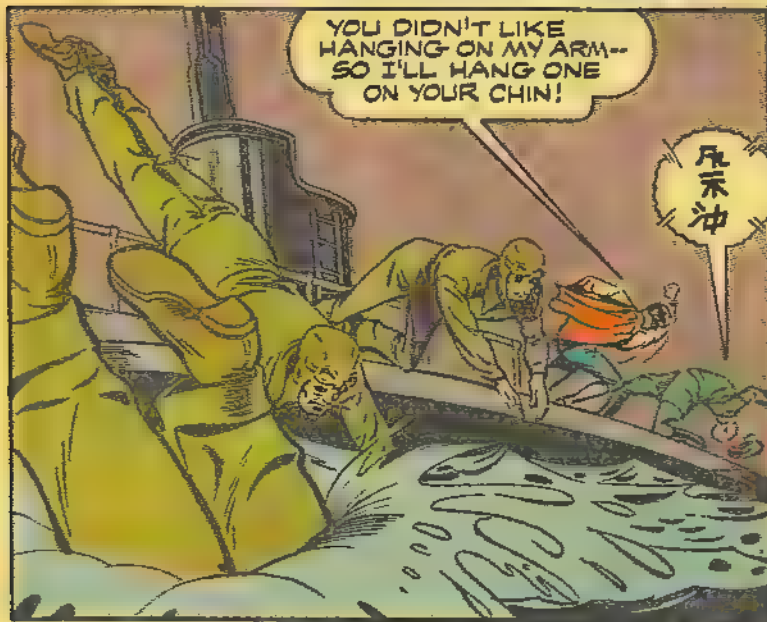
COME ON, BOYS!!
NAIL THEM!!
AMERICOMMANDO
PULLED A
SWIFTY ON 'EM!

DIVE OVER
THE SIDE...
QUICK!!



YOU DIDN'T LIKE
HANGING ON MY ARM--
SO I'LL HANG ONE
ON YOUR CHIN!

足永沖



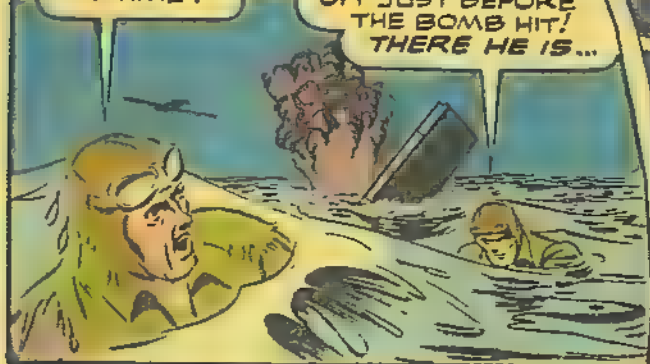
THE NEXT SECOND...



ITS MISSION "ACCOMPLISHED" THE
JAP BOMBER SPEEDS AWAY---BUT
IN THE DARK, OILY WATERS...

AMERICOMMANDO!
DID HE GET OFF
IN TIME?

I THOUGHT I
SAW HIM DIVE
OFF JUST BEFORE
THE BOMB HIT!
THERE HE IS...



THE EXPLOSION THREW
ME A LONG WAY... BUT
FORTUNATELY OUR SUB
WAS NEAR WHEN
I LANDED...

NO MISTAKES
THIS TIME,
BUDDY!



INSIDE THE
SUBMARINE...

I HEAR YOU LOST A
MONTH'S PAY, JEFF...
BUT YOU GAINED A
REAL LESSON!



THERE ARE TWO POWERS IN THE
WORLD--THE SWORD AND THE
SPIRIT OF FREE MEN! THE
SPIRIT CAN LICK THE SWORD
ANY OLD TIME!



WE HAVE FRIENDS IN
AMERICA---PEOPLE WHO
DO NOT BUY WAR BONDS!



YOU'RE NOT
GONNA BE FRIENDS
WITH THOSE GUYS,
ARE YOU ?!?
WELL, THEN---
**BUY MORE
WAR BONDS!**



ZATARA

THE MASTER MAGICIAN

ON A SUNNY ISLAND AN OLD STONE IMAGE STANDS... NO ONE KNOWS WHO PUT IT THERE, OR WHAT IT REPRESENTS. BUT IT PLAYS A POWERFUL PART IN THE LIFE OF THE TINY ISLE. FOR THE NATIVES ATTRIBUTE SUPERNATURAL POWERS TO IT... BUT ONLY ZATARA REALLY UNDERSTANDS THE REAL ROLE PLAYED IN THE DRAMA OF PERIL-BREEDING PEARLS BY...

"THE IDOL ON THE ISLAND!"

ZATARA, THE MASTER MAGICIAN, ACCOMPANIES HIS GUIDE TO THE FORESTED SLOPES WHERE THE IDOL RESTS...

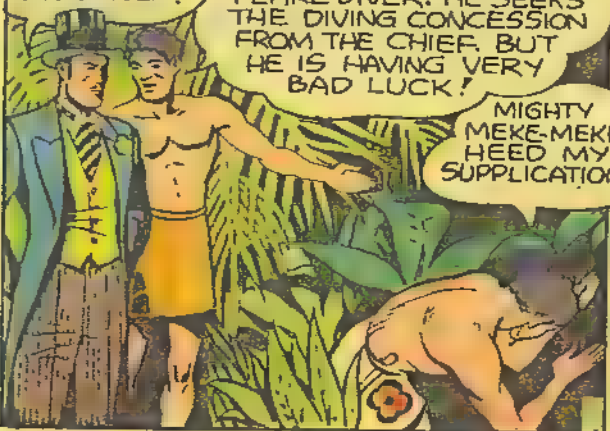
SINCE YOU ARE HERE TO STUDY OUR ISLAND MAGIC, YOU MUST FIRST VIEW THE MIGHTY MEKE-MEKE! IT IS OUR GUARDIAN! ALWAYS IT HAS BEEN HERE! WE DRAW OUR MAGIC POWER FROM IT!



IS THAT MAN PRAYING?

YES. THAT IS TAOS, A PEARL DIVER. HE SEEKS THE DIVING CONCESSION FROM THE CHIEF. BUT HE IS HAVING VERY BAD LUCK!

MIGHTY MEKE-MEKE, HEED MY SUPPLICATION!



THE PEARLS I FIND ARE ORDINARY ONES. I NEED SUCH AS GROG AND HIS BOYS CATCH-LARGE AND LUSTROUS ONES, FOR MY CHIEF. HEAR ME, HEAR ME..



TAOS IS OUR BEST PEARL DIVER, BUT GROG ALWAYS FINDS THE BEST PEARLS. PEARLS SUCH AS HAVE NOT BEEN SEEN HERE FOR YEARS. SOON GROG WILL BEAT TAOS FOR THE CONCESSION...

GROG ALWAYS FINDS THEM, EH?



LATER... THIS DIVING TRIP MIGHT PROVE INSTRUCTIVE - ESPECIALLY SINCE GROG IS THE ONLY ONE WHO FINDS THE "BIG" PEARLS. * EB NEESNU. *



* READ BACKWARDS. *

AS HIS CORPOREAL BODY FADES INTO INVISIBILITY, ZATARA SWEEPS ALONG ON THE MISTY SUBSTANCE OF A WHITE CLOUD...

I'LL FOLLOW GROG AND SEE WHAT THE SECRET OF HIS SUCCESS REALLY IS...



WHAT-? HE'S BRINGING OUT A PEARL THAT HE HAS HIDDEN ON HIM!



NO WONDER HE ALWAYS "FINDS" THOSE BIG ONES. THE QUESTION IS, WHERE DO THEY REALLY COME FROM?



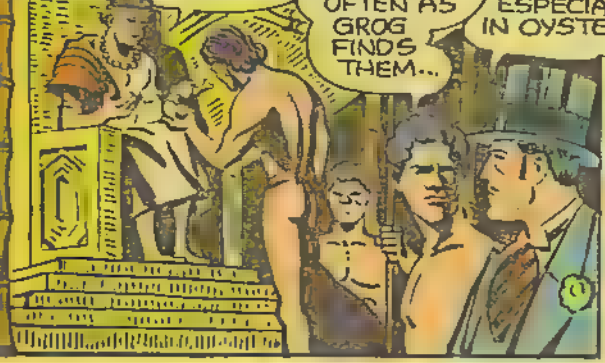
LATER, AS THE PRESENTATION OF THE BIG PEARL IS MADE TO THE ELDERLY CHIEF...

THAT IS NUMBER EIGHT, GROG. SOON YOU WILL HAVE PAID FOR THE CONCESSION BY BRINGING ME TEN EXTRA-LARGE PEARLS...

THERE IS SOME SORCERY HERE. SUCH PEARLS ARE NEVER

FOUND SO OFTEN AS GROG FINDS THEM...

ESPECIALLY IN OYSTERS...



HE BRINGS THEM DIVING WITH HIM, THEN HIDES THEM IN A SHELL. WHERE ON THE ISLAND COULD HE FIND THEM?

BY MEKE-MEKE I DO NOT KNOW! AND HE WOULD LAUGH AT ME IF I ACCUSED HIM OF WHAT YOU SAY!



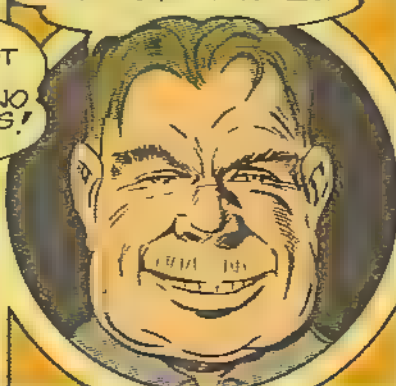
ON A LITTLE WATERFRONT TAVERN THAT AFTERNOON, BIG HANK HOPE LOOKS FORWARD TO A PROSPEROUS FUTURE...

GOOD WORK, GROG! SOON WE'LL HAVE THE CHIEF'S PERMISSION TO WORK HIS OYSTER BEDS! THEN I'LL FLASH THOSE OTHER PEARLS...

WHY NOT NOW, MASTER? NO ONE KNOWS!



TRUE, BUT IF THE CHIEF EVER FOUND OUT, I'D GET A POISONED DART IN MY BACK! THIS WAY IS SAFER. BESIDES, NO ONE WILL EVER FIND WHERE THOSE BIG PEARLS ARE...



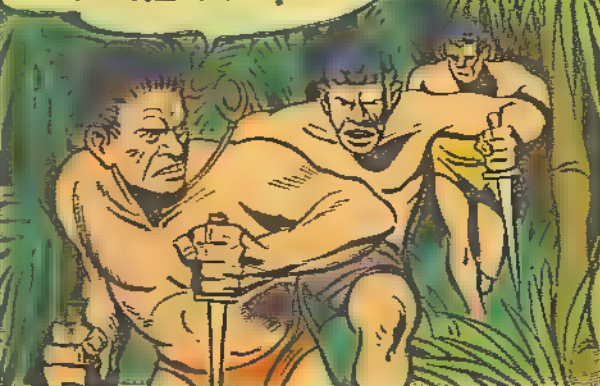
ME THINK TAOS GETTING SMART ABOUT US HE WHISPER TO ME THAT I BRING PEARL WITH ME TODAY.

TAOS! HE'S THE BEST DIVER HERE. AND HONEST, TOO! SEE THAT-ER HE NEVER BLABS WHAT HE THINKS...



SO, OUT INTO THE JUNGLE TRAIL GOES GROG, WITH TWO HUSKY KNIFE-BOYS...

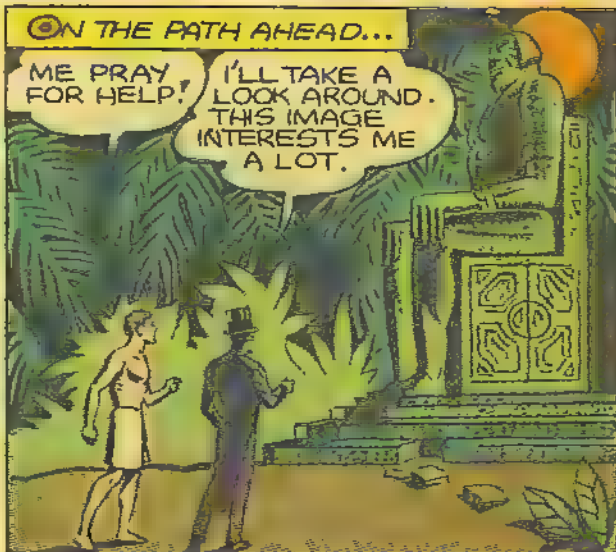
TAOS WENT TO PRAY TO MEKE-MEKE! ME THINK HE MAKE GOOD SACRIFICE TO STONE GOD!



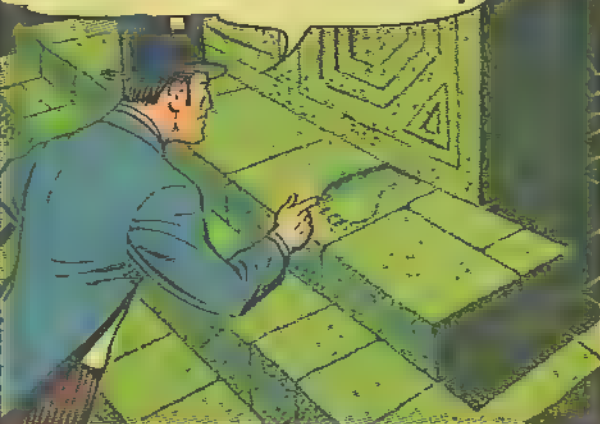
ON THE PATH AHEAD...

ME PRAY FOR HELP!

I'LL TAKE A LOOK AROUND. THIS IMAGE INTERESTS ME A LOT.

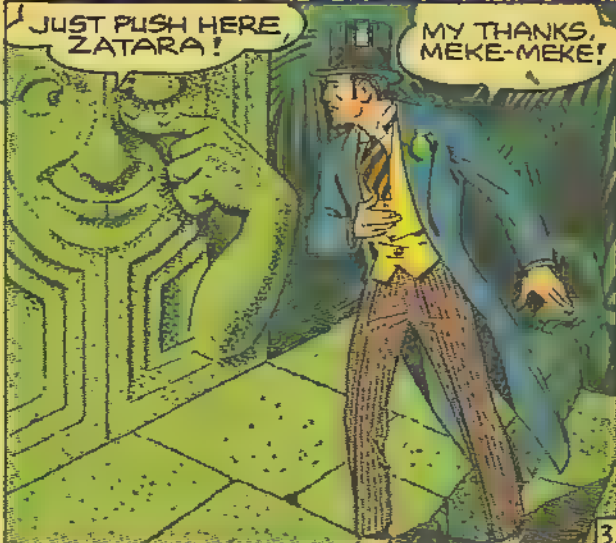


A HUMAN FOOTPRINT CUT IN HALF BY THE REAR OF THE STONE STATUE! BUT THAT MUST MEAN THERE IS A HIDDEN DOOR HERE! IN THAT CASE... EGAMI KAEPS!



JUST PUSH HERE, ZATARA!

MY THANKS, MEKE-MEKE!

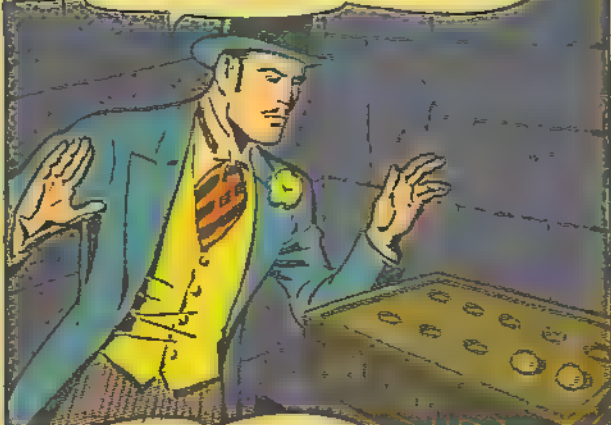


WITH A FAINT RUMBLE OF HEAVY HINGES, THE BASE OF THE IDOL SLIDES ASIDE...

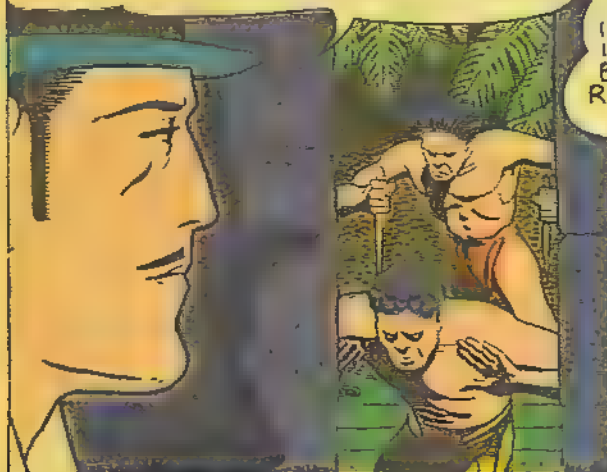
A HIDDEN PASSAGE AND A ROOM AHEAD! IT MUST HAVE BEEN USED IN TIMES SO ANCIENT THAT THE PRESENT NATIVES HAVE FORGOTTEN IT.



THIS IS WHERE GROG GETS HIS PEARLS. HE MUST HAVE ACCIDENTALLY STUMBLED ON THE SECRET. AND WITH TEN PEARLS LIKE THESE, HE'LL GET THE CONCESSION...



I'LL CALL TAOS AND- OH-OH! TROUBLE IS BREWING. WELL, I'LL ATTEND TO THAT... EFINK ETIB!



YEEOW! OWWTCH!

THIS IS WHAT I CALL A BITING REMARK!

GROG!



WE GET HIM, YOU BETCHA! TAOS NOT TELL WHAT HIM KNOW!

COME ON, THEN!



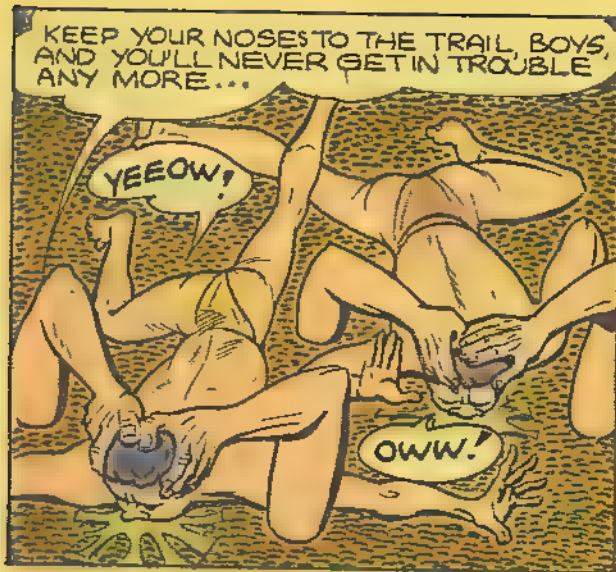
SUDDENLY...

MAGIC...

OWWW!

HELP!

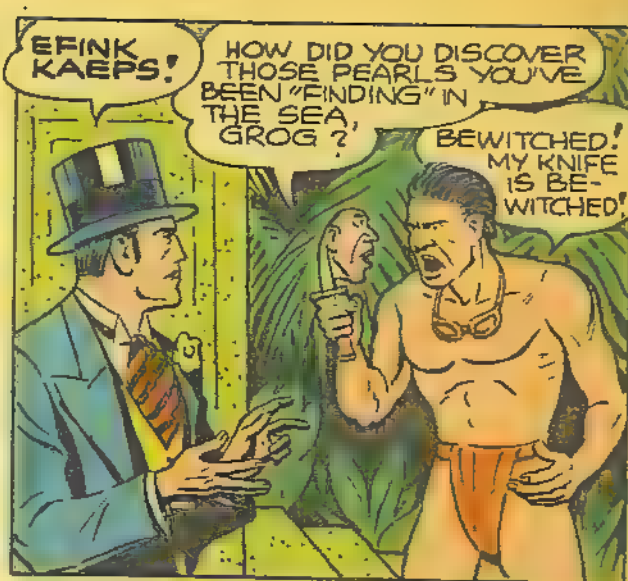




KEEP YOUR NOSES TO THE TRAIL, BOYS,
AND YOU'LL NEVER GET IN TROUBLE
ANY MORE...

YEEOW!

OWW!



EFINK
KEAPS!

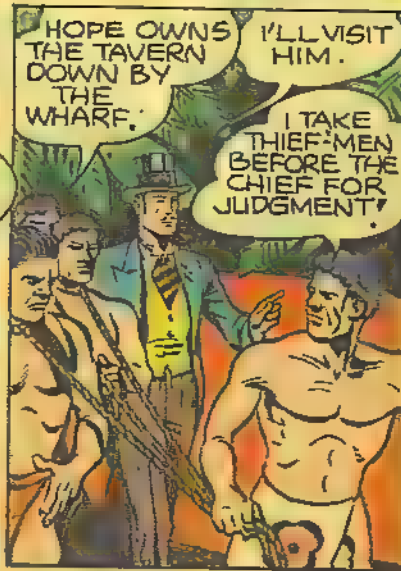
HOW DID YOU DISCOVER
THOSE PEARLS YOU'VE
BEEN "FINDING" IN
THE SEA,
GROG?

BEWITCHED!
MY KNIFE
IS BE-
WITCHED!



IT WAS THE WHITE MAN,
HANK HOPE. HE KNOWS
WHERE THE PEARLS ARE.
HE GIVES THEM TO ME
SO THAT I MAY
PRESENT THEM
TO THE
CHIEF!

WHERE
CAN I FIND
THIS MAN
HOPE?



HOPE OWNS
THE TAVERN
DOWN BY
THE
WHARF.

I'LL VISIT
HIM.

I TAKE
THIEF-MEN
BEFORE THE
CHIEF FOR
JUDGMENT!



SOME MINUTES LATER, THE
MASTER MAGICIAN ENTERS
THE WATERSIDE SALOON...

I CAME ABOUT
THOSE PEARLS
YOU'VE BEEN
GIVING GROG.

WHAT
BUSINESS
IS THAT OF
YOURS,
CHUM?



NOW GET OUT
OF HERE! I
CAN HANDLE MY
OWN AFFAIRS!

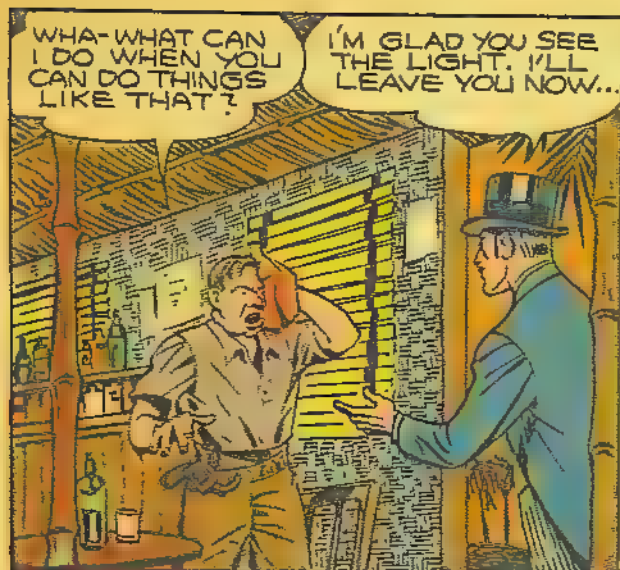
I DON'T GO FOR
GUNS POINTED
AT ME... NRUT
REHTO YAW!



GULP!
SAY, WHAT
IS THIS?

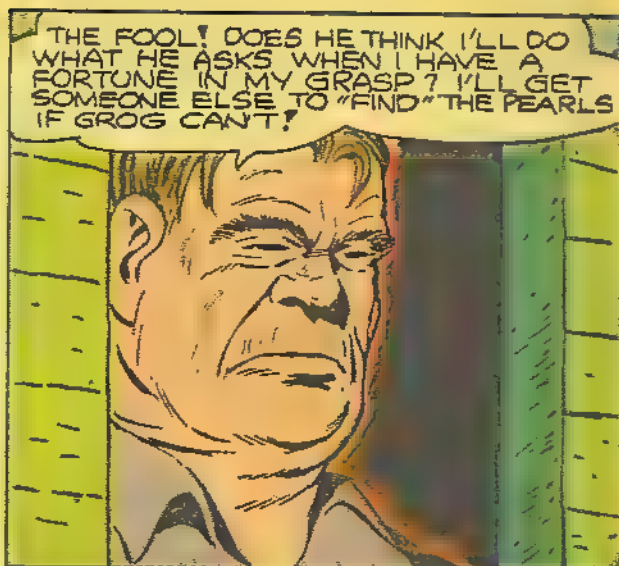
IT MEANS YOU'D BETTER
STAY CLEAR OF THAT
PEARL DIVING CON-
CESSION, OR I'LL SEE
TO IT THAT PEARLS
WILL NEVER INTEREST
YOU AGAIN!

IF YOU
SHOOT, PAL -
YOU'LL SHOOT
YOURSELF!

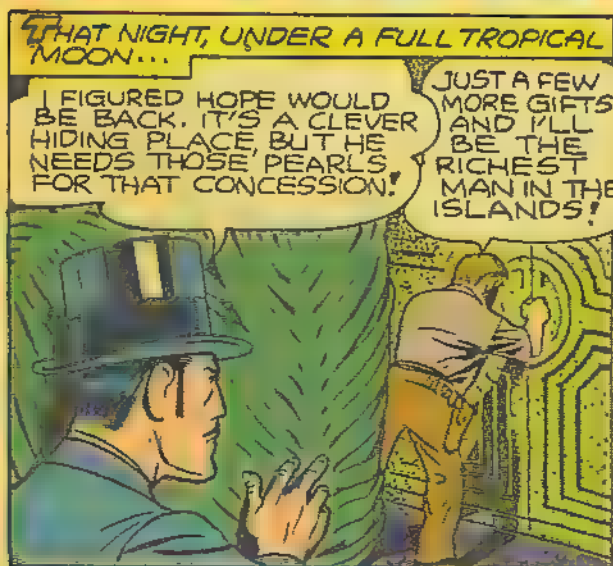


WHA-WHAT CAN I DO WHEN YOU CAN DO THINGS LIKE THAT?

I'M GLAD YOU SEE THE LIGHT. I'LL LEAVE YOU NOW...



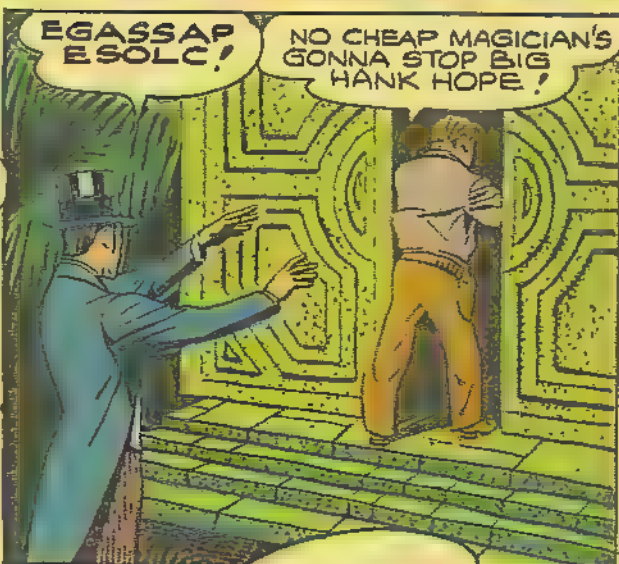
THE FOOL! DOES HE THINK I'LL DO WHAT HE ASKS WHEN I HAVE A FORTUNE IN MY GRASP? I'LL GET SOMEONE ELSE TO "FIND" THE PEARLS IF GROG CAN'T!



THAT NIGHT, UNDER A FULL TROPICAL MOON...

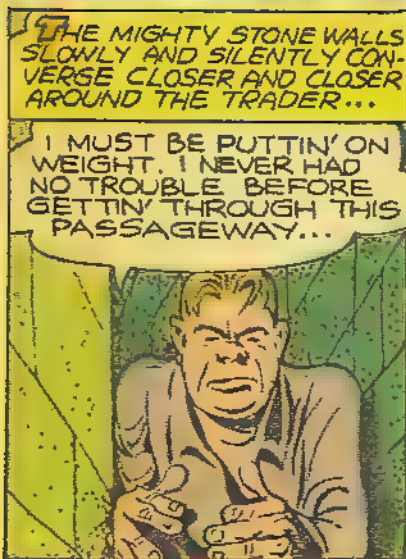
I FIGURED HOPE WOULD BE BACK. IT'S A CLEVER HIDING PLACE, BUT HE NEEDS THOSE PEARLS FOR THAT CONCESSION!

JUST A FEW MORE GIFTS AND I'LL BE THE RICHEST MAN IN THE ISLANDS!



EGASSAP ESOLC!

NO CHEAP MAGICIAN'S GONNA STOP BIG HANK HOPE!

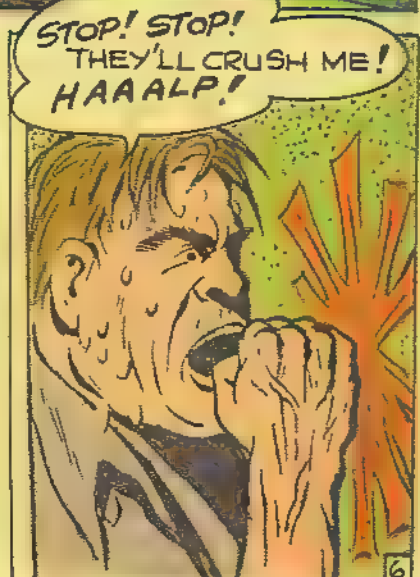


THE MIGHTY STONE WALLS SLOWLY AND SILENTLY CONVERGE CLOSER AND CLOSER AROUND THE TRADER...

I MUST BE PUTTIN' ON WEIGHT. I NEVER HAD NO TROUBLE BEFORE GETTIN' THROUGH THIS PASSAGEWAY...



I - I'M STUCK! I CAN'T MOVE FORWARD OR BACKWARD...

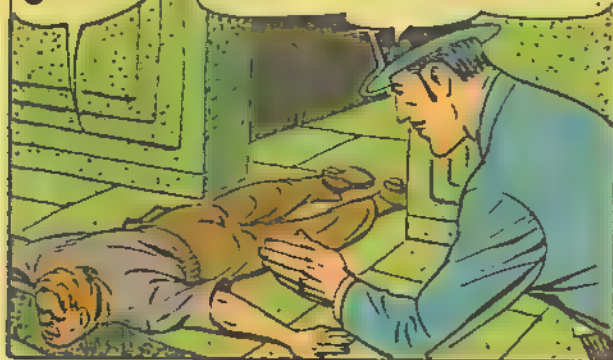


STOP! STOP! THEY'LL CRUSH ME! HAAALP!

THE WALLS RETREAT SO SWIFTLY BEFORE THE BLAZING EYES OF THE MASTER MAGICIAN THAT TRADER HOPE IS DROPPED LIKE A HOT POTATO...

OOOOF!

FOOL! ARE YOU WILLING NOW TO STOP YOUR TRICKS AND LEAVE THIS ISLAND?



SUDDENLY A WAR-SPEAR CLANGS AGAINST THE STONE OF THE WALL...

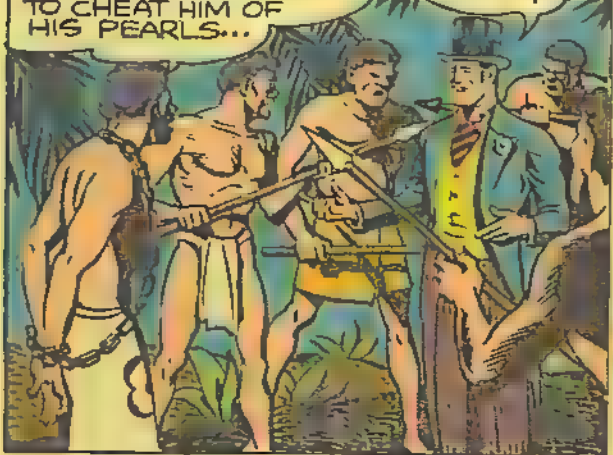
WHAT? WHO'S THAT?

THE CHIEF AND YOUR FRIEND TOAS IS IN CHAINS. I'M SAVED, SAVED...



THE CHIEF BELIEVED THE LYING TALE GROG TOLD HIM, THAT YOU AND I WERE SCHEMING TO CHEAT HIM OF HIS PEARLS...

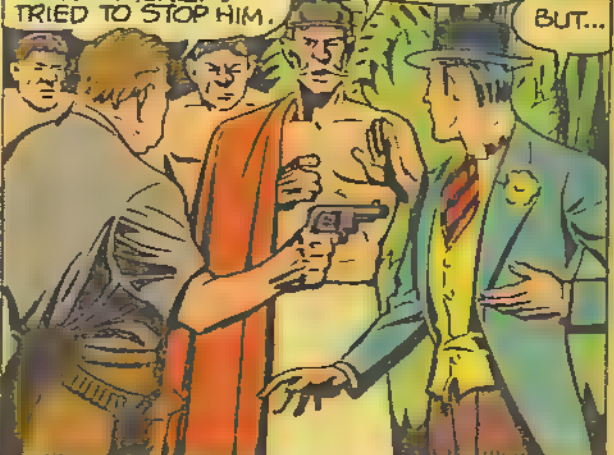
INCREDIBLE. HE WOULD NOT BELIEVE THAT!



NOT ONLY THAT CHIEF, BUT THIS GUY WAS ABOUT TO DESTROY MEKE-MEKE. I TRIED TO STOP HIM.

FOR THAT HE DIES AS A SACRIFICE!

BUT...



SPEAK NOT TO ME, LIAR AND CHEAT. MEKE-MEKE WILL DEAL WITH YOU!

I ONLY WANT TO EXPLAIN...



BOUND HAND AND FOOT, A HELPLESS CAPTIVE, ZATARA LIES BENEATH THE SACRIFICIAL KNIFE!

MEKE-MEKE I OFFER YOU THIS VICTIM...



SUDDENLY...

EKEM-EKEM! KAEPS ROF EM!



A SHUDDER PASSES THROUGH THE ON-LOOKERS AS THEY STARE UP AT THEIR GREAT STONE STATUE, FOR IT HAS STIRRED FROM ITS SLEEP OF UNTOLD CENTURIES!

AIEEEE...
MEKE-MEKE
HAS ARISEN!

THIS MAN, ZATARA
IS GOOD! HARM
HIM NOT...

WOE TO US,
FOR WE HAVE
OFFENDED HIM..

AAAAGH..

THE EVIL MEN ARE HOPE
AND GROG, FOR THEY HAVE
BEEN STEALING THE TREASURE
OF MEKE-MEKE AND PRETEND-
ING THAT MY PEARLS WERE
FOUND BY THEM!

WE'RE DONE FOR! I-
I AIN'T GOT NO CHANCE
AGAINST THAT THING!

MEKE-MEKE! SPARE ME.
IT WAS THE WHITE
MAN'S FAULT...

LIKE A HUNTING FALCON, THE GREAT
STONE HAND SWOOPS TO IMPRISON
THE FUGITIVES...

IT-IT'S
GOT US!

AAAAGH!.

BEHOLD MY TREASURE,
CHIEF. SEE WHAT HOPE
WAS STEALING TO
GIVE TO YOU!
THAT MEANS
YOU STOLE
THEM, TOO!

NO-NO...
I WILL GIVE
THEM BACK,
I SWEAR IT...

AND YOU WILL
SEE THAT TAOS
GETS THE PEARL
DIVING CON-
CESSION?

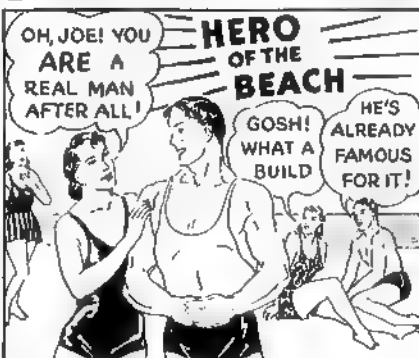
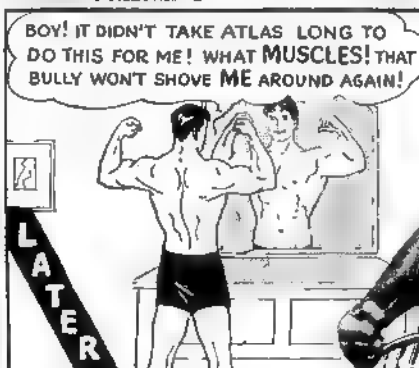
WELL, CHIEF? TAOS WILL
GET THE
CONCESSION.
HOPE AND GROG
WILL BE PUN-
ISHED. BUT
SPARE ME,
MEKE-MEKE!

TO THIS DAY, SOME NAT-
IVES SAY ZATARA TURNED
AND SPOKE TO MEKE-MEKE
THUSLY...

ANYTIME,
ZATARA, ANY
TIME AT ALL...

THANKS,
PAL.

HOW JOE'S BODY BROUGHT HIM FAME INSTEAD OF SHAME



—actual photo of the man who holds the title, "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man."

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If YOU, like Joe, have a body that others can "push around"—if you're ashamed to strip for sports or a swim—then give me just 15 minutes a day! I'll PROVE you can have a body you'll be proud of, packed with red blooded vitality, "Dynamic Tension." That's the secret! That's how I changed myself from a spindly shanked, scrawny weakling to winner of the title, "World's Most Perfectly Developed Man."

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Send NOW for this book—FREE. It tells all about "Dynamic Tension," shows you actual photos of men I've turned from puny weaklings into Atlas Champions. It tells how I can do the same for YOU. Don't put it off! Address me personally: Charles Atlas, Dept. 325 D, 115 East 23rd St., New York 10, N. Y.



CHARLES ATLAS, Dept. 326 D, 115 East 23rd St., New York 10, N. Y.

I want the proof that your system of "Dynamic Tension" will help make a New Man of me—give me a healthy, husky body and big muscular development. Send me your free book, "Everlasting Health and Strength."

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